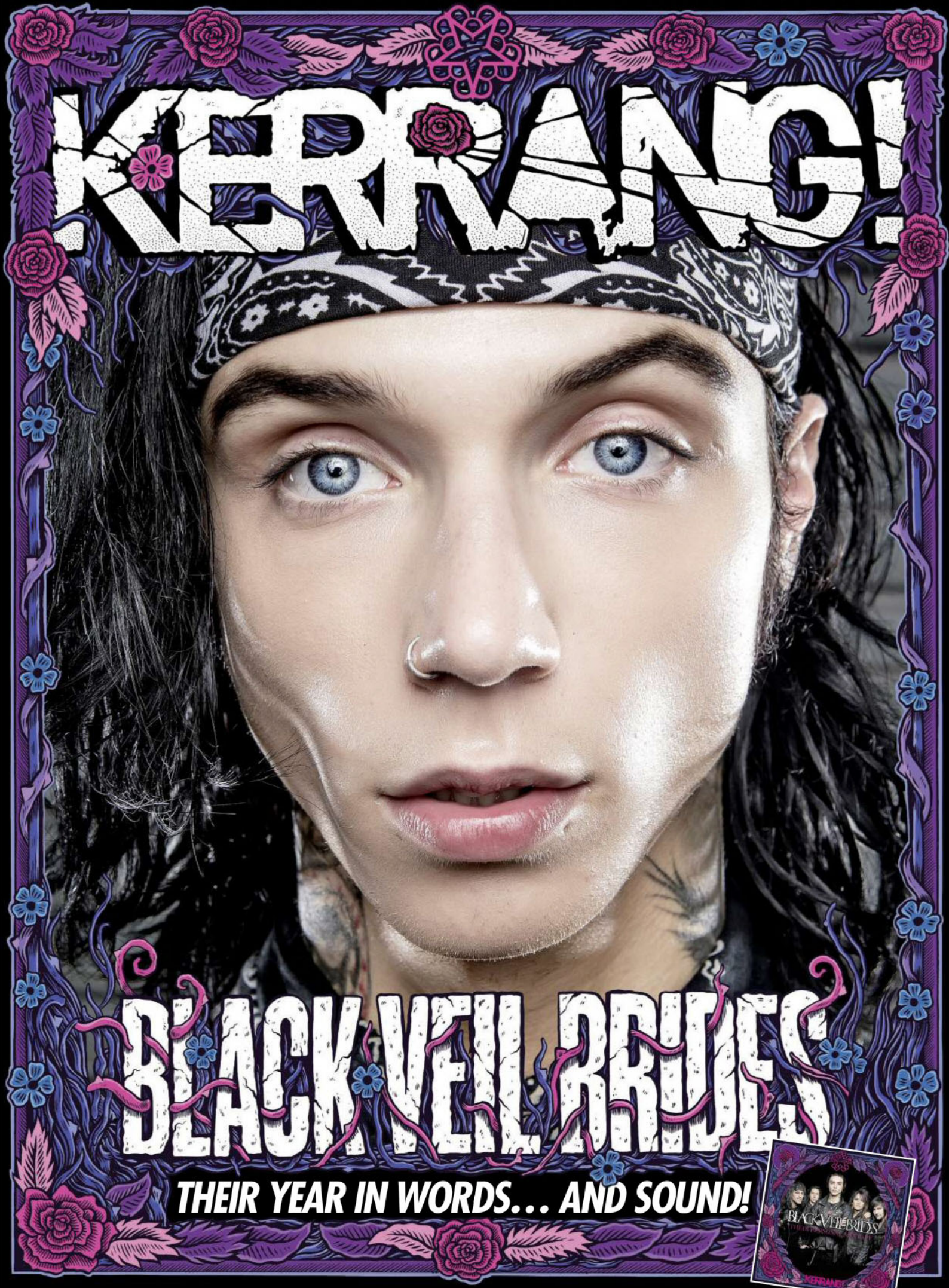
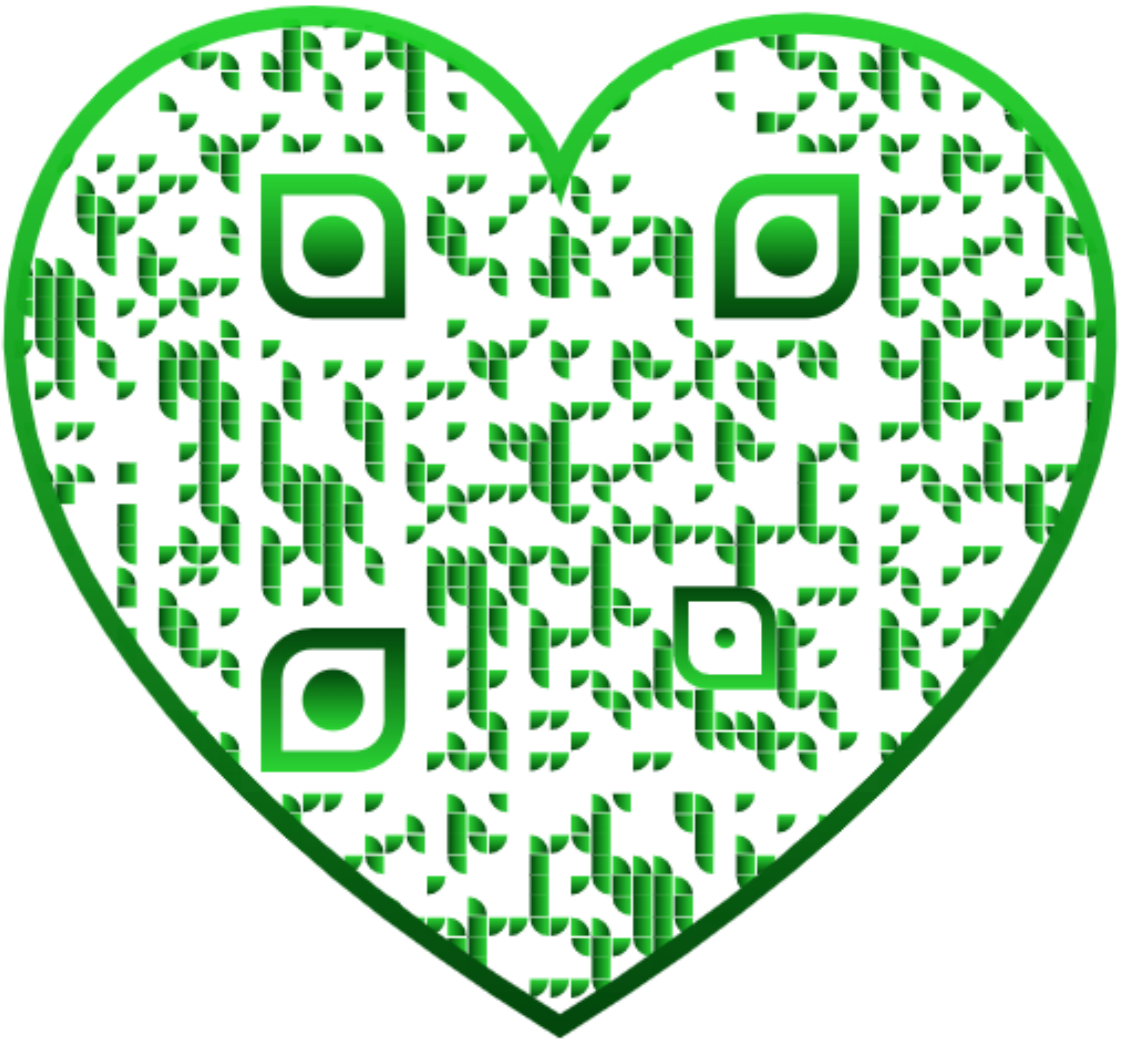
KERRANG!



BLACK VEIL BRIDES

THEIR YEAR IN WORDS... AND SOUND!



KERRANG!
PRESENTS
KERRANG! TOUR 2016
SOLD OUT!
SUM 41
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT! SEE YOU IN THE PIT!
Frank Carter
& THE RATTLESNAKES
ROAM
BITERS
FEBRUARY 2016
#KerrangTour2016
AN SJM CONCERTS PRODUCTION

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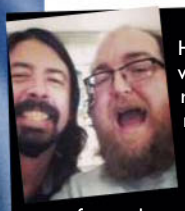
ISSUE 1598 DEC 12, 2015



HELLO, READERS. Welcome to this week's issue of Kerrang!. Here's two reasons to be excited! One: you may have noticed that this week's issue comes to you with an exclusive CD, compiled by BVB and introduced by Andy Biersack himself, seemingly standing on the side of a very busy motorway! And two: it's the 2015 Albums Of The Year issue (and there's a damn sight more lists than that for you all to get frothed-up about). Well done to everyone who made their way into the charts. I think we can all agree, it's music that was the real winner here…

James
Editor

NEWS We pay tribute to the great **Scott Weiland (p4)**, who tragically passed away last week. Elsewhere, **letlive. (p6)** and **Bring Me The Horizon (p8)** reveal epic 2016 plans…

REVIEW OF THE YEAR!

Thirteen pages of everything that rocked your 2015, including **Bring Me The Horizon (p28)**, **Iron Maiden (p27)**, **twenty one pilots (p27)**, **Fightstar (p24)** and LOADS MORE! Also, **BVB** take you inside your new favourite mixtape (you'd have found it in the bag with this issue) and reveal the soundtrack to their rollercoaster year **(p38)**!

POSTERS Not got any Kerrismas decorations up yet? Well, let us help you out with a Kerrismas poster special, featuring **PVRIS**, **Fall Out Boy**, **New Years Day** and more **(p30)**! Part 2 next week!

LIVES **Five Finger Death Punch (p44)** head to Wembley to deliver a knockout, **Slayer (p46)** and **Beartooth (p47)** start a riot (though not together), and **New Years Day (p48)** give London a pre-Kerrismas spook!

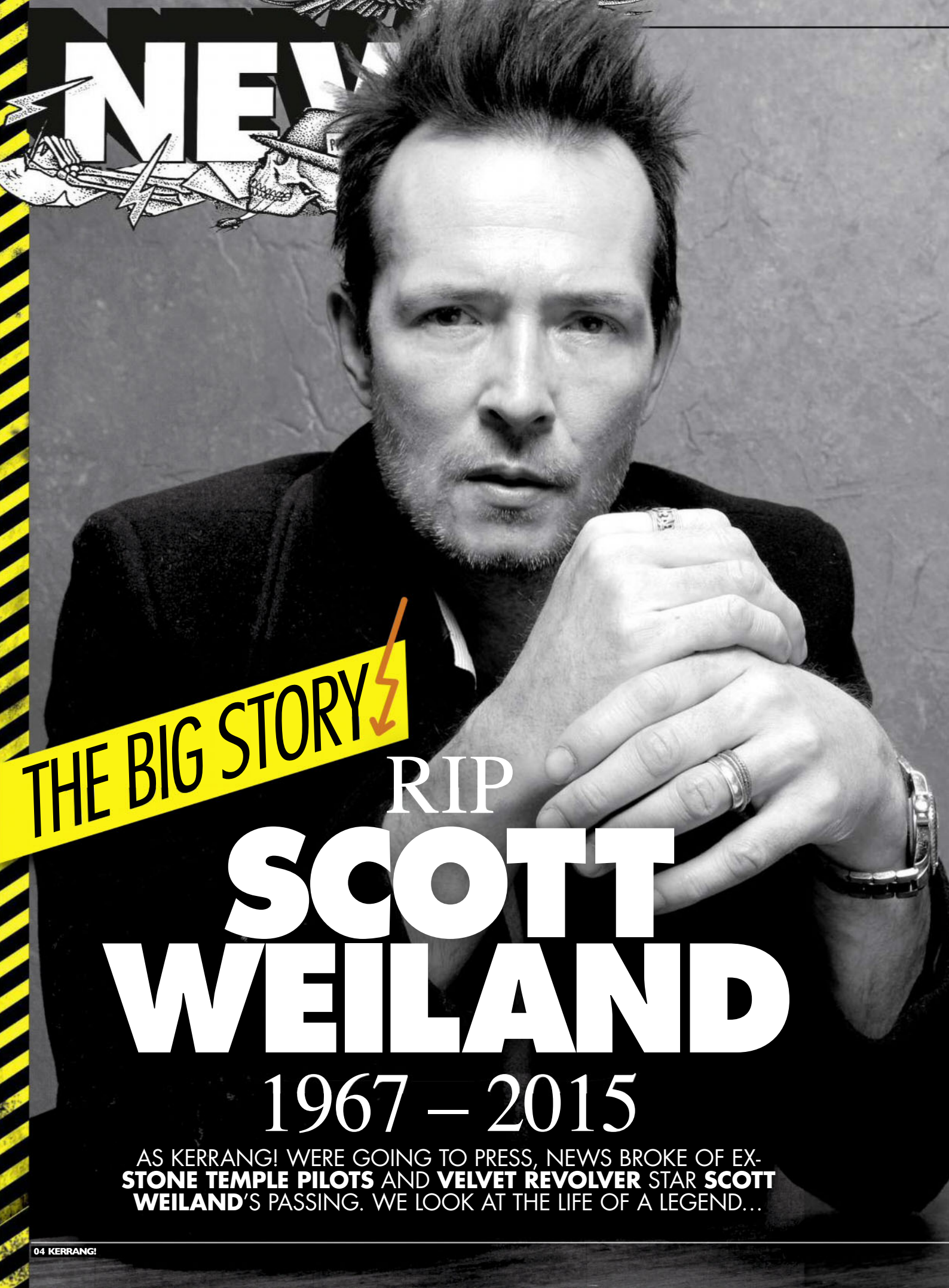
REVIEWS Just in time for Kerrismas, **Baroness** return with their stunning new album, Purple **(p50)**.

GIGS **Queen Kwong** prepare to climb all over you on their UK tour **(p56)**, while **Rob Lynch** tells us about the Stamford music scene **(p58)**.

SCOTT WEILAND
p4
The iconic, charismatic Stone Temple Pilots and Velvet Revolver frontman remembered

KVELERTAK p46
Kvelertak's live shows were an absolute hoot…

COVER PHOTO: JEREMY SAFFER ILLUSTRATION: SAM DUNN



NEW

THE BIG STORY

RIP

SCOTT WEILAND

1967 – 2015

AS KERRANG! WERE GOING TO PRESS, NEWS BROKE OF EX-**STONE TEMPLE PILOTS** AND **VELVET REVOLVER** STAR **SCOTT WEILAND**'S PASSING. WE LOOK AT THE LIFE OF A LEGEND...

THERE REALLY WILL NEVER be another Scott Weiland.

Born in San Jose, California, in 1967, as frontman of Stone Temple Pilots he was a vital and defining part of hard rock in the '90s. Despite all of the well-documented problems he faced with substance abuse over the following quarter of a century, he continued to release music that was engaging and exciting. He wielded an unmistakably confident attitude, and yet had a remarkable ability to lay himself bare in his lyrics. To say he was unique would be selling him short – it's hard not to look back on his legacy and be in awe of what he achieved.

Having been snapped up in the major-label feeding frenzy in the wake of grunge blowing up, STP took quite a critical kicking when they exploded onto the scene with 1992's Core, but fans flocked in droves from the get-go. Undoubtedly, a huge part of their appeal lay with Scott, whose gruff-yet-smooth vocals and alluring stage presence made him something so many of his contemporaries were not: a *rockstar*.

Over subsequent years, STP's profile grew and grew, and while his indulgence in substances followed suit, the music stayed strong, particularly on the now-classic Purple (1994). In '98, Scott dropped his debut solo album, the eclectic 12 Bar Blues, which further cemented him as an unconventional and riveting creative force in music, all while Stone Temple Pilots continued to evolve.

With Scott's substance abuse issues a recurring problem dogging the band, he was frequently late for shows or in a debilitated state onstage. Eventually, STP imploded in 2002, and it was uncertain if, or when, we might hear new music from the man again.

That he subsequently fronted Velvet Revolver, featuring Guns N' Roses' Slash, Duff McKagan and Matt Sorum, really was a rock fan's fantasy made real. His inimitable croon and swagger gelled magnificently with the band's blistering music, and they would go on to drop two killer full-lengths, 2004's Contraband and 2007's Libertad. Not many men could fill the spot essentially vacated by Axl Rose, but anyone catching the band live could not fail to be hypnotised by the chemistry and charisma pouring off the stage.

Unfortunately, with their continued success, Scott slipped back into the self-destructive habits that had taken a toll on his previous band. As stated in his 2011 memoir, Not Dead & Not For Sale, "At the beginning of the tour [in 2007], I was okay, but then a single line of coke in England did the trick. I snorted it. And soon the demons were back." By the time of their final UK tour, he was not on speaking terms with Velvet Revolver, a state of affairs that eventually precipitated his departure.

Stone Temple Pilots in 1993, not long after debut album Core hit the shelves…

Scott with Stone Temple Pilots in 2010, when they reunited for their sixth album

More solo albums followed, and in 2010 Scott reunited with his brothers in Stone Temple Pilots, dropping their first album in nine years and hitting the road, reigniting that old magic on stages around the world. This, too, was not to last. In recent years he once again took the solo route, as well as fronting supergroup Art Of Anarchy, which never quite stood up to his best-known work.

"SCOTT'S ARTISTRY WILL LIVE ON"

VELVET REVOLVER

Things did, however, seem to be improving. In 2013, Scott married his third wife, photographer Jamie Wachtel, who he met on a video shoot in 2011. Right after the wedding, Jamie enthused to People Magazine: "We had the most beautiful, heartfelt ceremony. We all cried and laughed. Scott and I are over the moon!" Similarly, in March of this year, Scott and his band The Wildabouts dropped their debut, Blaster. Speaking to Blabbermouth in April, he stated that he had not "had a needle in [his] arm for 13 years". He also maintained he was working hard to undo the bad reputation he had developed over the years, his lateness and, at times, sloppy showmanship leaving some fans to feel taken for granted. It seems like he really had turned a corner, and, like Type O Negative frontman Peter Steele – who, in 2010, died of a heart attack, also aged 48 – he was in the most positive and enthusiastic mental and emotional state he had been in for years, and was excited for what lay ahead.

In support of Blaster, the band had recently embarked on a U.S. tour that would take them through to Christmas. The band were scheduled to play at Medina Entertainment Center on December 3, due to go onstage when he was found unresponsive in the band's tour bus outside of a hotel, having passed away in his sleep just before 9pm. At the time of going to press, reports pointed to a possibility of cardiac arrest as cause of death.

The tragic news was first broken in a tweet by Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro, who wrote, 'Just learned our friend Scott Weiland has died. So gutted, I am thinking of his family tonight,' and was soon confirmed by Scott's wife, Jamie. The outpouring of grief was instant – both from within the rock community, and the army of fans Scott had amassed.

Of note was a moving official statement posted on behalf of Velvet Revolver's members, which read: "We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of our old friend and bandmate, Scott Weiland. We experienced a good chunk of life with Scott, and even in his darkest times, we all had hope and love for him. His artistry will live on, of that there is no doubt."

Among other mourners were next year's K! Tour stars Biters, who had only just wrapped up a stint on the road with Scott in America. "Touring with Scott was really great," reflected frontman Tuk Smith. "Picking his brain about music was even better. He was so down-to-earth and I'm very fortunate to have had the experience of sharing time with such a genuine rockstar."

All of us at Kerrang! would like to express our deepest sympathies to Scott's friends and family.

FOR MORE TRIBUTES TO SCOTT, SEE KERRANG.COM

Velvet Revolver shot around the release of 2004 debut Contraband

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTOS:** GETTY, LISA JOHNSON

THE BIG STORY

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

SHOUT AT THE DEVIL

HAVE **LETLIVE.** JUST MADE THE ALBUM OF THEIR CAREER? FRONTMAN **JASON AALON BUTLER** SEEMS TO THINK SO. WE HAD TO FIND OUT MORE…

2016 IS SHAPING UP to be a big year for LA post-hardcore mob letlive., who will be releasing fourth album If I'm The Devil….After the mould-shattering, fierce intelligence of Fake History and The Blackest Beautiful, it would be fair to say anticipation is running pretty damn high. Frontman Jason Aalon Butler checks in to reveal what lies in store…

HI, JASON! FIRST THING'S FIRST, HOW'S THAT DELIGHTFUL BEARD OF YOURS?

"It's good, man (*laughs*). I just got it trimmed by my barber, who happens to be a good friend of mine. Don't worry – it's still thick and full. I've definitely been having thoughts of shaving it, though…"

DON'T SAY THAT! SO, WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW?

"I'm thinking about the joy and discomfort we've been through as a band. I want people to know just how *human* we are. Any frustration led to trying harder, which led to success! It came to a head earlier this year. We became transparent and unapologetic with each other. I've become more candid with my band than in the past."

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR YOU. LINE-UP CHANGES, MAKING A NEW ALBUM…

"I don't want people to assume [long-serving guitarist] Jean Nascimento's departure [in February] was inevitable. But I do think there was a fatal element to his role. He was in a place where he wanted different things. All five of us tried to make it work. But that's life. And that's *okay*. I don't want to be spiteful or resentful. We wrote a record that I think is the best music we've ever written. Not because Jean left – I feel like this was just *meant* to be. It's all good, man. He's doing his own thing."

BUT CAN IT REALLY BE BETTER THAN FAKE HISTORY AND THE BLACKEST BEAUTIFUL? THOSE ARE DEFINITELY BOLD CLAIMS!

"Let me just put out this disclaimer: you're going to hear every artist say whatever they've just done is the best shit they have ever written and they're so proud. Ultimately, people are going to hear what they're going to hear. I feel like I got to sing my heart out and explore certain areas of my voice this time. I'm now more adept. We are all more self-aware. I think it's going to be a record that's fucking on it. Even if it sounds different, which it does, fuck it. There isn't going to be much compromise at all."

DOES IT EVER GET SCARY FOR LETLIVE.? LIKE, 'SHIT! HOW DO WE FOLLOW THESE CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED ALBUMS?'

"I honestly feel like the expectations for myself are higher than anyone else's. I grew up in an area and household where you had to get things done for any sort of success. Not that my parents are tyrants; they gave me a lot of room to do what I wanted. I've always had this idea that while you're alive, you should try to put every ounce of yourself into something. We're all here, alive now on this earth, for a multitude of reasons. I'm sure…"

SO, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?!

"Actually, I'm not so sure (*laughs*)! I don't know *why* we're here, but I know I have found reason through this. So, I'm going to honour this thing, this band, this art with my heart and soul. Whether that be writing a record that gets a few Ks in Kerrang! or being a good father, making sure that if my kids get their asses kicked, I tell them it's okay to be humiliated. Why stress over what people think? Because, no matter what, people are going to think a certain thing about you and someone will get it wrong."

TELL US MORE ABOUT THE RECORDING SESSIONS. WHAT WAS THE VIBE LIKE?

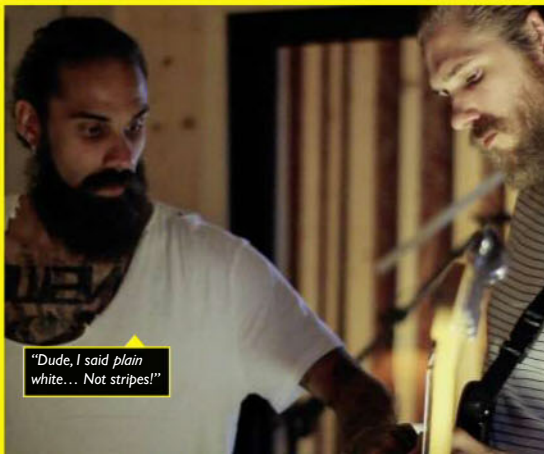
"We recorded it at Kingsize Soundlabs in an area of Los Angeles called Eagle Rock, which was great because it was only five minutes away from my house. There was an easy vibe for us to record – very unassuming. We weren't in a position to spend millions of dollars, and luckily we didn't have to. I think [the new album will] be out maybe February 2016. Though I probably shouldn't say that (*laughs*)!"

YOU'VE BECOME ONE OF THE BIGGEST SUCCESSES IN RECENT ROCK MUSIC. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

"I think part of it is we always seek to amplify ourselves naturally by word of mouth. That's really important to us. It kinda feels like there have been these artistic charlatans in every era. You know, people that belong to a movement that's kinda disingenuous and full of shit? I can see bands using art and monetising it. They're making it this thing that you can sell on a poster or a T-shirt. [But I feel they forget that] with any movement, revolution, collective consciousness that permeates through the masses… the message just *exists*! It's not there to be sold. *You* get to be a part of *it*. You might even get to write a bit of the soundtrack if you're lucky. Not the other way around! I'm not saying I think we've written the soundtrack, but I do know it's out there. And I wanna be part of it. I know sometimes I take things too far, it's only because all I want is to do better. I'm really thankful to all our fans for being so real. It makes me realise why this *has* to continue."

Stay updated on the new letlive. album at ***Kerrang.com***

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA **PHOTOS:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY



"Dude, I said plain white… Not stripes!"

The magnetic beard seemed like a good idea at the time…

"THIS RECORD'S GOING TO BE F**KING ON IT!"

JASON AALON BUTLER

This is what happens when you have The Apprentice on at band practice

It took hours and hours to beat that dog's top score…

Now all they need to decide is circle pit or orchestra pit…

CAN YOU FEEL MY HARP

BRING ME THE HORIZON ANNOUNCED THAT THEY'LL PLAYING LONDON'S ROYAL ALBERT HALL WITH AN *ORCHESTRA*?! IT SOLD OUT IN MINUTES! **LEE MALIA** FILLS US IN…

HAVING JUST DECIMATED UK venues on their headline run in support of newest album That's The Spirit, Bring Me The Horizon have announced a very special show at London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall on April 22 next year. It will see the band accompanied by a live orchestra for the first time in their career, with proceeds going to the Teenage Cancer Trust. We caught up with guitarist Lee Malia to find out more…

TELL US ABOUT HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH TEENAGE CANCER TRUST – WHEN DID THE IDEA FOR THIS ALL COME ABOUT?

"I think it happened this way because whenever we do UK tours, we always make everyone who comes in on our guestlist donate to that charity. We make people donate, like, £5 or £10. It still saves them money, but that way we're all doing our bit for a good cause. So, in that sense, we've always done stuff for the Teenage Cancer Trust. They got in touch saying they were getting a bunch of bands together for this thing at the Royal Albert Hall, and asked us to do it as well. As we'd been working with them for a fair while, it just made sense to go for it."

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE PLAYING THE LEGENDARY ROYAL ALBERT HALL?

"I've never seen anyone play there, but I think it's one of those venues we wouldn't have thought was an option! You don't normally see bands like us playing there, or *anything* heavy. I suppose there's quite a lot of seating, and usually at our shows it's better if people aren't sat down!"

> ***"AT OUR SHOWS IT'S BETTER IF PEOPLE AREN'T SAT DOWN!"***
> **LEE MALIA**

IT MUST FEEL LIKE A VICTORY, A ROCK BAND TAKING OVER A VENUE MORE KNOWN FOR CLASSIC RECITALS AND THE PROMS…

"Yeah, I suppose it does. It just shows everyone: why *not* have more rock shows in there? We didn't really need to put much thought into *why* we were doing this – we just wanted to do it. And it felt like an opportunity that might not come along again soon."

THE ORCHESTRA SOUNDS AMAZING! TELL US MORE ABOUT HOW THAT IDEA CAME ABOUT?

"When we did the soft version of Drown on [BBC] Radio 1 Live Lounge, we had some people playing strings that Jordan [Fish, keys] knew. One of them was this guy called Will Harvey, who was an old friend of Jordan's, and used to play in a band called Dry The River. We figured he's an awesome violinist and would be great for organising the orchestra. Plus, he knows us well and *gets* us. So, it's not like some weird connection – he gets it because he used to be in a band, knows our stuff and also knows that whole orchestral side of things, as well."

AND WHAT KIND OF STAGE SHOW WILL YOU HAVE? ALLY PALLY WAS PRETTY EPIC…

"At the moment, we're still figuring out how everything is going to fit on that stage (*laughs*)! As it's all of our equipment *and* a big orchestra. Like, a massive 50-piece, full-on orchestra! So, we won't know what it's going to look like for a little while yet. And with the set list, we're looking at what songs are going to work best with strings going over them. As you can imagine, there's lots to plan!"

Watch the BMTH Guitar Hero Tour Diaries at ***Kerrang.com***

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE

THEY SAID WHAT?

"REALLY HOPE SANTA GETS ME SOME DON COCOA FOR CHRISTMAS"

ROB DAMIANI, DON BROCO

BACK IN THE DRIVING SEAT

At The Drive-In have been announced for Ohio festival Rock On The Range, alongside Red Hot Chili Peppers, BMTH and 5FDP. It will be their first performance since reuniting in 2012 when they played their 'final gig' at London's O2 Academy Brixton.

MUPPET WRENCH

Dave Grohl and **Animal** (you know, the floppy-haired pinky-red guy from The Muppets) picked up their sticks for an intense drum-off on The Muppets TV show last week. The nail-biting battle ended with both of them wrecking their kits in true rock'n'roll fashion. But who won, you ask? Head to Kerrang.com to find out!

Animal's kit may be bigger, but it's what you do with it that counts

TWIST AND STOUT!

Swedish progressive metal titans **Opeth** have announced their own line of 9.2% imperial stout, which will be limited to a run of 1,800 bottles. Singer/guitarist Mikael Åkerfeldt says, "Believe me, we've turned down zillions of offers to do alcoholic beverages with the Opeth logo on it. All I know is that it's a top quality beer and I will certainly enjoy having my own little stash in the cooler for Christmas."

Axe learned not to mess with 9.2% ale the hard way

BAND OF BROTHERS

You Me At Six have announced details of an intimate benefit gig to take place on December 11 at Camden's Underworld. With support from **Deaf Havana** and a reformed **Your Demise**, they're performing to raise money for **The Ghost Inside**'s recovery fund after their bus crashed on November 19 – an incident that left two people dead and members of the band with serious injuries. Speaking about their decision, frontman Josh Franceschi said, "The Ghost Inside have been friends of ours for years and we wanted to see if there was something we could do to help. Looking out for your friends within the scene has always been part of what we do and this was a no brainer." If you would like to offer your financial support, you can make a donation at Musicglue.com.

JINGLE HELL ROCK!

UK ROCKERS **THE DARKNESS** HAVE UNVEILED **I AM SANTA** – THEIR SECOND ODE TO ALL THINGS FESTIVE…

SO, WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO TACKLE CHRISTMAS AGAIN AFTER 2003'S CHRISTMAS TIME (DON'T LET THE BELLS END)?

JUSTIN HAWKINS (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It's actually my third time if you count [2004 Band Aid 20 song] Do They Know It's Christmas?. We're not afraid to be a Christmas band – we love it! The money's just a bonus."

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT COMPETING WITH SLADE IN THE CHRISTMAS ROCK CHARTS?

"*Don't* try and beat Slade. Try and compliment them, if anything. Slade will always be omnipresent come Christmas time, and rightly so – theirs is the greatest of all Christmas rock songs. It's nothing to be ashamed of, get out there and get seasonal!"

THE VIDEO'S A BIT OF A HOOT! DID YOU HIRE BRIAN BLESSED FOR THE VOICE OF SANTA?

"It's actually me aiming for Brian Blessed, and getting somewhere closer to Matt Berry – who I'm also a huge fan of. I've done a lot of voice-over work you may not be aware of, actually… I've got a repertoire of different characters I can lean on for titillations such as this. People dismiss my lower register at their peril, I feel. It was a fun video to shoot, with a lot of partial-sightedness going on. That's the vibe we were going for."

WHAT WOULD YOU GET UP TO IF YOU ACTUALLY WERE SANTA?

"I'd have a better chance of getting down chimneys than Santa, because I have a svelte, lean and bendy physique. So, even some of the modern wood-burners wouldn't be a problem for me. In terms of distribution, I'd be far more efficient! If I was Santa – not to say I'm *not*. I'd be better than the current incarnation. In Germany they call him Christmas Man! I think Christmas should be all year, so I'd be All-Year-Round Man. It'd be more than Jesus' birthday. I tend to celebrate *every* day, mainly because I'm just grateful to be alive at this point."

Justin Hawkins: he may or may not be Santa…

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

BUCKLEY LEAVES TOUR

Every Time I Die frontman Keith Buckley has left the band's current U.S. tour to be with his wife who faced "a rare and life-threatening complication" that led to the emergency birth of their child. The group will be "enlisting the help of very close friends to handle vocal duties" while the singer focuses "on the recovery of my lionhearted wife and my frail but beautiful new daughter".

ROARING TO GO!

Congrats to London rockers **As Lions**, who have announced signing a deal with Better Noise Records part of Eleven Seven Music. They join a roster that already includes Escape The Fate and Apocalyptica. Singer Austin Dickinson says, "The Eleven Seven family are one of a kind, and it's a total pleasure to work with some of the most driven and talented people in the rock world. Here's to a bold and beautiful 2016, we can't wait to share the adventure!"

THEY SAID WHAT?

"FINALLY EXPERIENCING THE BULLET TRAIN IN JAPAN! WE NEED ONE OF THESE IN THE STATES!"

LZZY HALE, HALESTORM

NEWS

K!ONFIDENTIAL

ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBER

MILK, NAPS AND ROCK'N'ROLL

Here at Kerrang!, we like to think it's never too early to start exploring the exciting world of rock music. So, imagine our faces when last week's coverstar, Charlie Simpson, sent in this picture of the new addition to his family, Arlo, proudly holding a copy of the mag with his dad on the cover.

We're still hedging bets in the office as to whether little Arlo prefers Fightstar or Busted, but, either way, it's good to see rock'n'roll runs in the family. And, when you think about it, this photo definitely brings a more literal meaning to One Day Son, This Will All Be Yours…

CYMBAL OF A DOWN

A massive shoutout goes to Eduarda Henklein this week. Never heard of her? Well, that's probably because she's only *five* years old. But that didn't stop her from covering **System Of A Down**'s Chop Suey on the drums, sending the internet into meltdown. Could we have a new K! coverstar in our midst?

No matter how much they told him off, Patrick just couldn't stop smiling

FALL OUT BOYZ II MEN

Considering just how perfectly their supergroup name works, it's almost like this collaboration was *meant* to be… **Fall Out Boy** hooked up with **Boyz II Men** on American television show Jimmy Kimmel Live! to run through the R&B crew's early hit Motownphilly. Unsurprisingly, FOB frontman/pop megafan Patrick Stump looked like he was having the time of his life!

SPOTTED

Sam Carter and his **Architects** bandmates hanging out with members of **You Me At Six**, **Enter Shikari**, **Don Broco**, **PVRIS** and more at **Bring Me The Horizon**'s Alexandra Palace after-party. Across the pond, **Panic! At The Disco** were seen rocking the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles float on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, which was pretty surreal! Elsewhere, **Iron Maiden** guitarist **Janick Gers** was spotted pottering around Oxford Street for a spot of Christmas shopping. It made us think about The Evil That Men Do… on Black Friday!

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com

YOUNG GUNS ROCK STORIES IS HERE

Stepping on Lego: never good… especially when you're onstage

THEY MAY HAVE WARMED UP A BON JOVI CROWD BUT, IN THE FINAL EPSIODE OF ROCK STORIES WITH GUITAR HERO LIVE, **YOUNG GUNS** REVEAL HOW IT'S NOT ALL BEEN PLAIN SAILING…

From playing their first show in a strip-club-come-seedy-as-sin-pub in an industrial area of High Wycombe, to opening up for the legendary Bon Jovi at a sold-out O2 Arena show, tearing Wembley Arena to shreds and playing every major festival under the sun – Young Guns' rise has been nothing short of meteoric. But, as well as the unbelievable highs, there have been some excruciating lows, and in the last episode of Rock Stories with Guitar Hero Live (recorded the day after their van was broken into and over £25,000 of their possessions were stolen), Alex Baker dives inside the minds of Gustav Wood, John Taylor, Fraser Taylor, Ben Jolliffe and Simon Mitchell to find out what life is really like when you're one of the hardest-working bands in the business… and a bunch of A-holes have nicked all your stuff!

Featuring more chat than your mind can take and insanely good live performances of Bones, I Want Out, Winter Kiss and Daylight – do not miss Young Guns Rock Stories with Guitar Hero Live!

WATCH...

Young Guns: Rock Stories with Guitar Hero Live – December 12 at 3pm on **Kerrang! TV**, or December 16 at 2pm on **4Music**, and online at **Boxplus.com.**

"Urm, John, how do I play this thing again?"

12 www.pegi.info
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GUITAR HERO LIVE
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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

NOT MUCH CHANGE HERE, THEN. **LOWER THAN ATLANTIS** ARE STILL DOMINATING, WHILE **PANIC! AT THE DISCO** ARE HAVING A MID-CHART BATTLE WITH THEMSELVES…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	8	1	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Get Over It	SONY MUSIC
2	6	2	PVRIS	White Noise	RISE RECORDS
3	4	2	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	I Won't Give In	SUMERIAN RECORDS
4	8	2	GHOST TOWN	Spark	FUELED BY RAMEN
5	5	5	FOREVER NEVER	One Life	FOREVER NEVER
6	4	5	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Emperor's New Clothes	FUELED BY RAMEN
7	2	7	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Victorious	FUELED BY RAMEN
8	2	8	BURY TOMORROW	Earthbound	NUCLEAR BLAST
9	3	9	ZEBRAHEAD	Worse Than This	RUDE RECORDS
10	4	8	BEAUTIFUL BODIES	Capture & Release	EPITAPH
11	18	1	BMTH	Throne	SONY
12	5	10	BFMV	Venom	RCA
13	2	13	BITERS	Low Lives In Hi-Definition	EARACHE
14	1	14	AS IT IS	Speak Soft	HOPELESS
15	10	2	STATE CHAMPS	All You Are Is History	PURE NOISE
16	10	5	SIMPLE PLAN	Boom	ATLANTIC
17	8	7	CROSSFAITH	Devil's Party	UNFD
18	4	13	REIGNING DAYS	Friendly Fire	ECCO RECORDINGS
19	8	5	COLDRAIN	Gone	HOPELESS
20	12	4	EAGLES OF DEATH METAL	Complexity	UNIVERSAL MUSIC

BRENDON URIE, PANIC! AT THE DISCO

WHAT IS EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES ABOUT?

"It actually is a lot about that Hans Christian Andersen story The Emperor's New Clothes, but instead of being the dumbfounded, gullible emperor, I actually know what's going down, and I just choose to be naked. There is a lot of that arrogance behind it, and that was a song that I felt I hadn't written in the past."

HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THIS SONG REPRESENTS THE MIND-SET OF YOUR NEW ALBUM, DEATH OF A BACHELOR?

"I wanted a song that says, 'This is mine, I do what I do because I feel that it's my right, I own this and I've earned it, and I deserve every bit that I put into this work.'"

DO YOU MEAN THAT AS AN ARTIST, OR IS THIS A REFLECTION OF YOUR CHANGING LIFESTYLE?

"It's about my life as a producer, songwriter and as bandleader. I'm taking back the crown."

TUK SMITH, BITERS

SO, HOW DID THE SONG COME ABOUT?

"I thought the title was cool. I had it in the back of my mind for a while. Then the big riff inspired the vocal."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENT IN THE SONG?

"I'd have to say the bridge – '*ahhh*' harmonies. It gives it a little T. Rex vibe."

PERSONALLY, WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE BEST LYRICS ON LOW LIVES IN HI-DEFINITION?

"'*Kill the shepherds, release the sheep / C'mon, baby, let the wolves eat*'. It kinda sounds like something Lemmy would sing!"

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FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BRE

L – R: Roland Johnson (bass), James Craig (drums), Jamie Campbell Bower (vocals, guitar) and Tristan Marmont (guitar)

COUNTERFEIT

BRAND-NEW BRITISH PUNK BAND DROP THE ACT AND KEEP IT REAL

THAT PICTURE REMINDS ME, I MUST PUT THE BINS OUT…

Don't be unkind. We were thinking gritty urban streets and perhaps a hint of the Victorian penny-dreadful – primarily because Counterfeit play street-level kerb-stomping punk rock. Oh, and singer Jamie Campbell Bower appeared in the Tim Burton-directed musical version of Sweeney Todd. "There have been records that have affected me throughout my life, like Beartooth – that record is just brutal and honest and open," he says of the band's musical influences. "I remember when I heard Gallows for the first time it just blew me away. So, we take inspiration, not to imitate them, but tipping our hats to these bands and saying, 'Thank you!'"

YEAH, YEAH, BUT REWIND A LITTLE. DID YOU SAY HE APPEARED IN SWEENEY TODD ALONGSIDE JOHNNY DEPP?

Oh yeah, didn't we mention? Jamie's a bona fide movie star who's also appeared in Harry Potter and The Twilight Saga. He's currently appearing in the Bend It Like Beckham musical in the West End, which makes recording the band's upcoming debut album a gruelling task. "I do eight shows a week, then I drive to the studio Saturday night and get there for about 1am, have a rest, get up about 6am because I suffer from anxiety and always wake early, then I get in the studio for nine in the morning," he explains.

"IF PEOPLE WRITE US OFF IT'S THEIR LOSS!"

NOW THAT'S DEDICATION…

Indeed it is, but music is in his blood. His mum, who used to work in the music business in A&R, took him to see Guns N' Roses at the age of two. His dad worked for Gibson guitars and the young Jamie had what he describes as an "air guitar band before air guitar was cool". We're not sure that miming in front of your parents is ever cool, Jamie, mate, but from there he did form a band called The Darling Buds. "I was singing in an American accent, I was talking about different things and I didn't talk about how I felt in my inner core and the anger that I felt," he says of his early foray into band life.

SO, ARE COUNTERFEIT MORE AUTHENTIC?

A little ironic given the name, but very much so. "It's very personal," nods Jamie. "The past six months have been hell as I've lost a very close friend, and the songwriting process, to me, has to be about how you're exorcising certain parts of your life." This clearly means a lot to Jamie, but he is prepared for people to come loaded with preconceptions. "I am prepared for people to write this band off without having heard anything and, quite frankly, it's their loss," he says laughing, yet deadly serious. And having heard what Counterfeit have come up with so far, we heartily concur…

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, The Bronx, Beartooth.
HEAR: The title-track from debut EP Come Get Some.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/therealcounterfeit
CHECK OUT: The band playing the O2 Academy Islington on December 18.
DON'T MISS: Counterfeit and more awesome new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTO:** GEORGE FAIRBAIRN

K!OMMUNITY
IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

WISHFUL INKING

"I recently got a tattoo to show my love for Neck Deep! Plus, the quote is a given," says ***@adelepinder****. That's interesting, because last time we saw Ben Barlow, we spotted he had an @adelepinder tattoo in honour of you, his most dedicated fan. That might be a lie.*

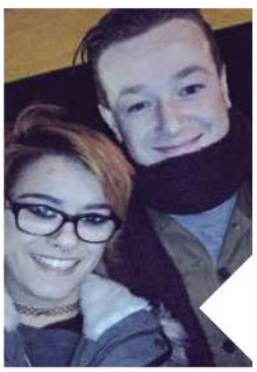
UNDER THE GUNN

"Got to meet some of PVRIS! Nicest people," admits ***@_Bethhhhh_****. Yup, PVRIS are the loveliest. Lynn's so nice that she probably didn't even comment on your confusing hoodie. 'THAT'S ESP…' what? ESPN? ESPADRILLE? ESPAGNOLE? We really need to know.*

WINNER!

PEOPLE = SITH

Here's one of the Galactic Empire's most loyal Stormtroopers, ***Andy Wilkinson****, getting ready for a night of fighting good guys and being a general badass, with a copy of K! in hand. Excellent work, sir. You've won a pair of VIP tickets to see BABYMETAL at London's SSE Arena, Wembley next year! May the Fox God be with you.*



MEET ME SCARFWAY, AT LEAST

"Met James Veck-Gilodi at the Islington Assembly Hall," says ***@weare_br0ken****. This is a very cheery selfie, guys. Where's James' neck gone, though? He left it in the studio writing Deaf Havana's new album? That makes sense. As you were.*

AMERICAN BEAUTY/AMERICAN SPICE GIRL

"Pete is killing it as Posh Spice!" says ***@aliyah****. You all look the part, to be fair, but shout-out to Patrick Stump for really owning it as Baby Spice. He is clearly enjoying this waaaaaaay too much.*

KILL THE POUTER

"My son and I managed to meet Benji from Skindred at Wembley!" says ***@nicbunny****. That's a mighty fine pout the 'Dred frontman has got going on there. Oh, the person taking the picture was about to offer him some Vaseline? Fair enough.*

BRING ME THE HOR-EYE-ZON

Here's ***@bethldraws****' ace scribble of Horizon frontman Oli Sykes. This is pretty much how we look after too much coffee. The Tiredness Will Never End. Or something.*

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Hopped in a cab with All Time Low? Bumped into Black Veil Brides down the library? Or maybe saw blink-182 at Pizza Hut? Whatever it is, if you've got a picture, then we wanna see it! Send us your coolest snaps on Twitter or Instagram using **#Kommunity**, and you could be in with a chance of winning a **£200 voucher** to spend on band goodies and awesome merch at **Impericon**. Do *iiiiiiiiitttt*!

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THE SMALL PRINT!

Kerrang! Radio will also still be on DAB digital radio in London, but you might need to retune to find us. For more information on retuning and other ways to listen, just head to Kerrangradio.co.uk. We appreciate many of you may have questions or concerns about how you can still listen to your favourite radio station, and if you're still unsure of anything, you can always reach us by sending an email to kerrangqueries@bauermedia.co.uk.

THE ULTIMATE 2015 KERRANG! ROCK REVIEW

THE SONGS AND ALBUMS THAT SHAPED YOUR YEAR!

THE MOMENTS THAT ROCKED THE WORLD!

THE BEST FILMS, COMICS, MERCH AND MORE!

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY...

• SAM COARE • GEORGE GARNER • JAMES HICKIE • JAMES HINGLE • SAM LAW
• JAMES McMAHON • NICK RUSKELL • MARK SUTHERLAND • PAUL TRAVERS • JENNYFER J. WALKER

PHOTOS: ANDY FORD, ANDREW LIPOVSKY

50 BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
VENOM

It's a decade since Bullet dropped 2005 debut The Poison. And what better way to mark the occasion than a fifth offering that mirrors not only that record's toxic title, but also its sense of unbridled metallic exuberance and fanged romanticism. The Bridgend boys might be veterans these days, but they've not lost their bite. (SL)

49 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
SOUNDS GOOD FEELS GOOD

A pyro accident may have caused 5SOS guitarist Michael Clifford's hair to burst into flames at The SSE Arena, Wembley, but the Aussie pop-punkers spent the rest of 2015 on fire in much less stressful ways. Number One on both sides of the Atlantic, this second album was punkier and spunkier, and successfully torched the One Direction-with-guitars sneers. (MS)

LUKE HEMMINGS SPEAKS!

WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HAVING TO FOLLOW UP SUCH A SUCCESSFUL DEBUT?
"Not really. We knew it had to be better, but there wasn't a moment where we really felt it getting on top of us. If anything, we were just wanting to get down to it!"

WHAT'S THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR DEBUT AND THIS?
"We were pretty young when we made our debut – 15, 16 years old – so we've grown a lot since then. We've improved as songwriters, we've played a lot more and we've got more to say now."

48 CLUTCH
PSYCHIC WARFARE

Retaining the same thundering pace as 2013's Earth Rocker, Clutch returned with another explosion of razor-sharp blues riffs. As ever, Neil Fallon's beyond-esoteric lyrical genius lies at the heart of it all. Who else could sing, '*He was the GM of a Tractor Supply*', or, '*You've been kicked in the neck by a three legg'd mule*', and still sound cool as fuck? (GG)

47 HALESTORM
INTO THE WILD LIFE

'I'm doing this thing called whatever the fuck I want-want-want!' howls Lzzy Hale on Sick Individual – aptly summarising the Pennsylvanian riffsters' approach to this horizon-pushing third LP. The diverse sounds of Into The Wild Life confirms world domination's still on the cards, but Halestorm are doing it on their own terms. (SL)

46 ACHERONTAS
MA-ION (FORMULAS OF REPTILIAN UNIFICATION)

No other album on this list was inspired by – and, indeed, forms part of – its creator's intense study of the occult. Acherontas' main man, V.Priest, went deep into the rabbit hole with Ma-IoN…, the Greek black metal diabolists' fifth album, revelling in not only pure darkness, but also the brilliant light his musical magick brings. (NR)

45 FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
GOT YOUR SIX

When you're a metal-belching war machine like Five Finger Death Punch, failure is not an option. Got Your Six was the Vegas brutalists' third album in two years, but there was no sign of diminishing returns – the ferocious songs contained within meant 5FDP remained metal's top guns. (MS)

44 HELLIONS
INDIAN SUMMER

An album so good it led to a Best International Newcomer nomination at the Kerrang! Awards, for a band who had, at the time, never played outside the Southern Hemisphere. Indian Summer – bearing inspirations as wide-ranging as MCR, letlive. and RATM – announced Australia's Hellions as the hottest new band from 2015's hottest rock scene. (SC)

43 BELL WITCH
FOUR PHANTOMS

Imagine having your mind, body, soul and – most importantly – ears torn apart very, very slowly. This was Seattle doomsters Bell Witch's second album, Four Phantoms, in a nutshell. With ditties like the chirpy, 22-minute opener, Suffocation, A Burial 1 – Awoken (Breathing Teeth), the Witch crowned themselves the kings of inordinately bleak but beautiful noise. (GG)

42 DON BROCO
AUTOMATIC

On their second album, Broco's priority seemed to be to recreate the funky feeling of '80s bands like Duran Duran. It's a mission they accomplished with tunes as pristine as their trainers and as colourful as a Hawaiian shirt. Is it rock? Not always. *Does* it rock? Absolutely. (JH)

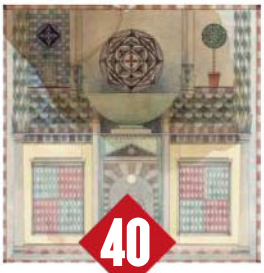
ROB DAMIANI SPEAKS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL FOR DON BROCO TO APPEAR ON THIS LIST ALONGSIDE SO MANY KILLER BANDS?
"It's incredible. To even see our name on a list with Iron Maiden – one of the first bands I listened to when I was growing up – is amazing!"

IT'S A MUCH POPPIER RECORD – WAS THAT INTENTIONAL OR JUST THE WAY THE SONGS CAME OUT?
"It sort of just came out, really. We wanted to make our mark with this record. It's very easy to stay still, and try to *be* your favourite bands, but we wanted to take those bands, combine all of our influences, churn them up and create something unique from that."

41 SLEATER-KINNEY
NO CITIES TO LOVE

Fittingly, for their first album in 10 years, Riot Grrrl legends Sleater-Kinney returned with 10 perfect tracks. The trio's two-guitars-no-bass approach and witty indignation still means they sound like no other on a comeback so welcome that a truckload of stars, including Mr Gerard Way, sang along in the video to No Cities To Love. (GG)



40 REFUSED
FREEDOM

1998's The Shape Of Punk To Come was a genre-busting neutron bomb of an album that was way ahead of its time. A host of other bands would soon take their cues from it, but this year Swedish punks Refused returned to announce themselves the rightful heirs to their politicised, incendiary hardcore throne. (PT)

2015: THE 10 BEST MOMENTS

THE GREATEST GOINGS-ON IN THIS TOPSY-TURVY, FRANKLY BATSHIT WORLD OF ROCK…

1 DAVE GROHL GETS A THRONE!

He's been owed one for ages anyway, but after Dave broke his leg performing in Sweden – and still finished the gig – the Foos frontman had to resort to sitting down during gigs while it healed. Lame. Stools suck. Unless your stool is actually a massive throne made of guitars. Which Dave has now. Well done, you mad, mad bastard, you.

2 PVRIS BREAK READING!

First, stage times overran, meaning Georgia sluggers Baroness played to a much less hairy audience than normal. By the time Lynn Gunn made it onstage, people were 20-deep outside the tent, and safety bods had mistaken the swarm for some sort of riot. Last band we saw do that were called Foo Fighters…

3 MÖTLEY CRÜE SAY SAYONARA!

The big, bad bastards of rock bowed out for the last time this year (even signing a contract saying so). The Crüe marked their final visit to the UK with – what else? – flaming guitars and a rollercoaster. We'll miss you, you big lugs.

4 ALL TIME LOW AND YOU ME AT SIX GET ROMANTIC!

Valentine's Day at London's O2 Arena was marked by the romantic telling of dirty jokes, and the most bants since, well, the last time YMAS and ATL hit the road together. Predictably, Jack Barakat had a bra on his head at one point.

5 HORIZON EXPLODE!

What do you do after Wembley? Duh, get bigger. Their huge comeback at Reading & Leeds stole Metallica's thunder, and their massive UK tour sold out in hours. Not to mention That's The Spirit crashing into the album chart at Number Two, and selling around 55,000 copies in its first week.

6 GREEN DAY GET INDUCTED INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME!

Yep. Cleveland's big rock'n'roll place invited Green Day into its hallowed halls this year. They joined the ranks of past inductees like Guns N' Roses, David Bowie and Johnny Cash, getting added to the list of greats alongside some no-mark named Paul McCartney. And they even let in someone called Miley Cyrus. Small event, see…

7 JIMMY PAGE SALUTES ROYAL BLOOD AT THE BRITS!

Every year, the BRITs are rubbish. Except this year, when not only did Royal Blood walk away with a gong, they were handed it by the Led Zep axeman and superfan. Somehow, we don't think he'd give one to RB's fellow nominees One Direction.

8 COREY TAYLOR ON DOCTOR WHO!

Well, his voice was on Doctor Who, as a big, demonic roar. He's not the first rockstar to do it, though: in The Mummy Returns, The Rock's voice was too puny, so Max Cavalera growled for him.

9 ALEXISONFIRE GET BACK TOGETHER!

Briefly. Only briefly. Still, what a bloody ripper at Reading & Leeds. Shame there was all that confusion saying they were back for good then tweeting they weren't, but hey ho…

10 GUNS N' ROSES FINALLY REFORM! (WELL, MAYBE…)

When it comes to Axl Rose, you should never believe anything until after it's happened. But the evidence stacks up: everyone has left the current line-up, Axl and Slash have been spotted out together, and it's, y'know, about bloody time. Fifty pence says we're right…

STAR PICK!

LYNN GUNN PVRIS

"My album of the year definitely has to be **That's The Spirit** by **Bring Me The Horizon**. It's awesome – it's been cool to see how they've evolved as a band. Before this album, I got into them through Sempiternal, and then one of my old friends got me into Suicide Season. Now I really like the more poppy and electronic elements that it's evolved into. My favourite song is Follow You, because I *love* it! It's just very vibey and different from the rest of the record."

MERCH OF THE YEAR

5 A DAY TO REMEMBER'S SIMPSONS T-SHIRT

The Simpsons meet ADTR?! Ay, caramba! This is actually a photo from their audition to play the part of Fallout Boy in the Radioactive Man movie.

4 MOTÖRHEAD WHISKY

Lemmy might've sworn off Jack for breakfast, but this tipple confirms the ol' fire-water isn't totally off-menu.

3 IRON MAIDEN RUGBY BALL

This Trooper/Maiden-branded ball was Maiden merch – *ahem* – really worth scrummaging for.

2 BRING ME THE HORIZON PENCIL CASE

Oli Sykes personally used this 12-pencil set to design BMTH's recent stage production. Honest, guv…

1 BLACK VEIL BRIDES ACTION FIGURES

Thanks to the marvel of 3D printing and German craft geniuses Staramba, you can get all five Black Veil Brides hauntingly recreated to sit on your shelf, staring down as you sleep. Just like you've always wanted, right?

KERRANG!

QUOTES OF THE YEAR

THE BEST OF THE WISDOM AND NONSENSE SPOUTED BY ROCKSTARS ACROSS THE LAST 12 MONTHS

"DILDOS ARE PRETTY METAL, AREN'T THEY?"
ROB HALFORD, JUDAS PRIEST

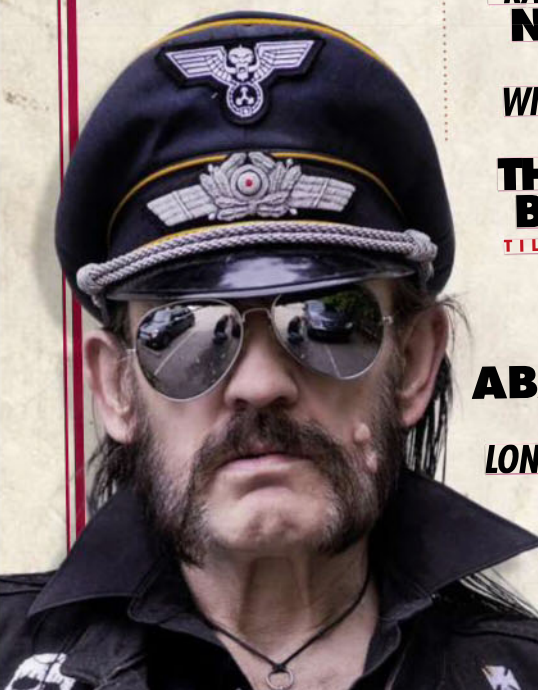
"YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY COCK-BLOCKING ME NOW"
MARILYN MANSON

"I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE A CHILDHOOD"
BECCA MACINTYRE, MARMOZETS

"I'M SO PROUD OF MIKEY. TO SEE HIM TAKE CHARGE OF HIS LIFE AND SAY, 'I NEED HELP...' I WAS SO PROUD"
GERARD WAY

"BEFORE THIS BAND CAME ALONG, I WAS NOTHING"
AUSTIN CARLILE, OF MICE & MEN

"RAMMSTEIN IS THE NAGGING WIFE WITH THE BORING FOOD AND THE REALLY BAD SEX"
TILL LINDEMANN, RAMMSTEIN



"I FEEL LIKE DANNY ABANDONED ME LONG BEFORE HE LEFT THE BAND"
BEN BRUCE, ASKING ALEXANDRIA

"BAND ADVICE? YEAH, DON'T PET BURNING DOGS"
LARS ULRICH, METALLICA

"PETE IS KIND OF AN AGENT PROVOCATEUR. I PUNCHED HIS CAMERA..."
PATRICK STUMP, FALL OUT BOY

"WHAT A STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN. RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, I KNOW WHERE I WANT TO BE..."
BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG, GREEN DAY

"THE COUNCIL WERE WORRIED OUR LASERS WOULD CUT PEOPLE IN HALF!"
JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN

"DAVID CAMERON? THAT FAT-FACED C**T? HOW DID HE GET MY NUMBER?"
FRANK CARTER

"WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE? I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I FIND OUT..."
LEMMY, MOTÖRHEAD

STAR PICK: CHINO MORENO, DEFTONES

"The only record I've been listening to lately has been the latest Martin Gore solo record called MG. It's just instrumental but, to me, it's better than his last three Depeche Mode albums! The music is all electronic synth stuff – there's so much mood in it and I find it very soothing yet hard-hitting. So, it's very dynamic to me as a listener. I've always appreciated instrumental music because, for me, even as a vocalist, I can always interpret my own melodies."

39

HAWK EYES
EVERYTHING IS FINE

In short: more accessible but no less weird than the Leeds riffsters' previous album, Ideas. This time the riffs of the likes of The Ballad Of Michael McGlue help tell the tale of the sole survivor of doomed coal steamer the SS Marlay, whose captain just so happened to be the great-grandfather of the band's singer-guitarist, Paul Astick. Heavy duty stuff. (JH)

36

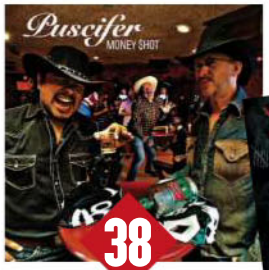
SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
MADNESS

Madness? That might be a misnomer. Variety. Maturity. Assuredness. They're the hallmarks of the Michigan superstars' fourth album. Scrapping one album and wasting 60 grand before making it, though? Nope, even that's not madness. Not when the results are as good as songs like Kick Me and Go Go Go. (SL)

31

WE ARE HARLOT
WE ARE HARLOT

In 1975, Roald Dahl wrote the book Danny, The Champion Of The World. Forty years later, Danny Worsnop, backed ably by his cohorts in post-Asking Alexandria outfit, We Are Harlot, became Champion Of The Retro Rock Scene. Does this mean Danny Worsnop is better than Roald Dahl? At singing, yes. Yes it does. (JMc)



38

PUSCIFER
MONEY SHOT

It's nearly been 10 years since the last Tool album (boooo), but at least Maynard James Keenan's kept his creative arteries pumping with his superb side-project, Puscifer (yaaay). Don't let the ludicrous title or cover fool you. This surface humour is Maynard's way of masking how songs like Galileo are every bit as beardstrokey as anything in his day job. (GG)

37

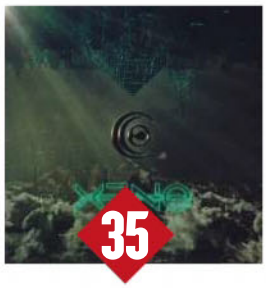
NEW YEARS DAY
MALEVOLENCE

It's Malevolence by name and malevolence by nature as scream queen Ash Costello digs deep into the darkest part of her psyche, where murder, heartbreak and New Grave romanticism collide. The result is a psychotic beast of an album that balances gothic strokes and melodic streaks of colour with a chunkily vicious metallic heft. (PT)

ASH COSTELLO SPEAKS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IN THE TOP 50?
"Amazing! 2015 has been the most incredible year for New Years Day – it felt like we just kept hitting milestone after milestone! Almost every goal we ever set as teenage kids we ticked off the list. It's been a crazy, crazy year for us."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT, LOOKING BACK?
"I feel like Malevolence is a huge stepping stone for us in the right direction. It's our first big step as New Years Day – it's like we're saying, 'This is who we are.' This is the first time I feel like we've really nailed our identity."



35

CROSSFAITH
XENO

One of Crossfaith's 2015 gigs proved so insane it broke K!'s ratings system, earning a sixth K. Their fourth album was no less deserving of superlatives; its hyped-up blend of techno-metal makes you want to wave your hands in the air like you just don't care and punch someone in the face like you *do*. In a nice, pit-friendly way, obvs. (MS)

34

QUEEN KWONG
GET A WITNESS

From the industrial Black Light Burns to the buffoonery of Big Dumb Face, Wes Borland has forged an eclectic career outside of Limp Bizkit. Queen Kwong is a welcome addition; an LA outfit built around multi-instrumentalist (and Wes' fiancé) Carré Callaway. This debut captures their cocktail of grunge and whirling psych perfectly. (JH)

33

ROLO TOMASSI
GRIEVANCES

A decade after their inception, Rolo Tomassi are still the oddest bods in town. It's hardly designed with the mainstream in mind, but Grievances does tone down the rampant technicality of previous albums in favour of a more dramatic and emotional sweep. The results, in case you were wondering, are truly magnificent. (PT)

32

CHRIS CORNELL
HIGHER TRUTH

Chris Cornell's last solo studio album, Scream, was an R&B collaboration with Timbaland that was remorselessly panned. And re-panned. There was none of that malarkey this time around. Higher Truth, Chris' first all-acoustic studio album, captures The Grungefather in prime form as he tackles big heartbreak and even bigger spiritual questions. (GG)

30

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
BRAINWASHED

Sleeps' second album, the sociopolitical Brainwashed (it's a lot more fun than that sounds), was thrilling on two levels. One: it rages like orcs on a stag do. Two: prior to release, we thought they might have lost their voice – literally in singer Loz Taylor's case. We were wrong. (JMc)

LOZ TAYLOR SPEAKS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO MAKE OUR TOP 50 ALBUMS?
"It's awesome! It's no secret that we've had our troubles, and so for people to see that we've put out a decent album and get behind it is wicked – it really is."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO RECORD THE ALBUM?
"I'd had my throat surgery, but because of that we had to record it all over the place. I remember doing some vocals around the back of a tattoo shop in China! And we recorded some of it in someone's wardrobe. Then there was studios, tattoo studios, practice rooms, all of these different places!"

TV SHOWS OF THE YEAR

5

AMERICAN HORROR STORY: HOTEL
There's something nasty lurking in the Hotel Cortez. It's the creepiest stopover since The Shining.

4

GAME OF THRONES
Dragons! White Walkers! Sand Snakes! The Faceless Men! Season five once again redefined OMG TV.

3

NARCOS
Thought Breaking Bad was badass? Meet real-life drug king Pablo Escobar in this '80s-tastic biopic series.

2

THE WALKING DEAD
Out of steam? No way, not with this many brain-eating, are-they-dead?, zombie cliffhangers.

1

FARGO
Fargo season one was brilliant. It was witty, original, tense and very bloody. This year's second season was even better. With Kirsten Dunst and Patrick Wilson in tow, the story of big-time crime in small-town America was unmissable.

BOOKS OF THE YEAR

5 BLACK METAL: THE CULT NEVER DIES, DAYAL PATTERSON

Following on from Evolution Of The Cult, this second volume by BM nerd Dayal Patterson delves even deeper into the darkness. An indispensable guide.

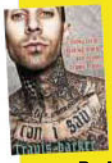
4 GIRL IN A BAND, KIM GORDON

Kim's chronicle of her break-up from Thurston Moore and the dissolution of their iconic band, Sonic Youth, isn't just a tale of heartbreak. It's also the story of alt.rock, told from the eye of the storm.

3 YOU'RE MAKING ME HATE YOU, COREY TAYLOR

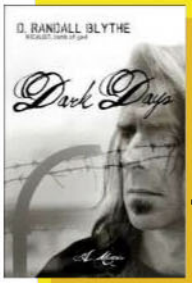
Not so much a book as an assault on everything from celebrity culture to airport security. Incisive. Intelligent. Utterly hilarious. The Slipknot man is just ranting, but oh, what rants.

2 CAN I SAY..., TRAVIS BARKER



blink-182 drummer Travis Barker lays bare the darker side of the rockstar experience here. A plane crash. Broken marriages. A life of excess. It's tough stuff.

1 DARK DAYS: A MEMOIR, D. RANDALL BLYTHE



This account of the Lamb Of God singer's fight to clear his name on a manslaughter charge in the Czech Republic is something even the most talented fiction writer couldn't match. Gruelling, wise, heartbreaking and at times hilarious, Randy's tale is one you *have* to read to believe.

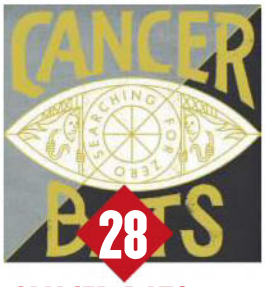
29 DEAFHEAVEN

NEW BERMUDA

With the debate over their black metal credentials settled (Official Verdict: no-one cares), this year answered the other big talking point hanging over Deafheaven: was 2013's stunning Sunbather simply a one-off? New Bermuda proved it was anything but, for a band who deserve to be appreciated for what they *are* than not. (SC)

28 CANCER BATS

SEARCHING FOR ZERO



What happens when you pair punk's gnarliest band with Ross Robinson, the man responsible for producing the most feral records by Korn and Slipknot? The answer: Cancer Bats' rawest album yet. Nowhere more so than on Arsenic In The Year Of The Snake, where frontman Liam Cormier tears his throat as he laments '*Too many friends died this year*'. (JH)

27 BEACH SLANG

THE THINGS WE DO TO FIND PEOPLE WHO FEEL LIKE US

'*If rock'n'roll is dangerous, how come I feel so safe in it?*' begs Beach Slang mainman James Alex on I Break Guitars. Maybe it's that his timelessly gorgeous post-hardcore is more sunset-glow than world-on-fire. Or maybe it's because the 10 tracks of this impassioned debut sound absolutely bulletproof. An ace find. (SL)

26 FALL OUT BOY

AMERICAN BEAUTY/ AMERICAN PSYCHO

So, you've saved rock'n'roll. What do you do for your next trick? Well, if you're Fall Out Boy, you pretty much ditch rock in favour of a smash'n'grab raid on everything pop culture has to offer. Thankfully, you also write the most instantly irresistible songs of your career, and you end up bigger than ever. Result! (MS)

25 BITERS

ELECTRIC BLOOD

A debut so good, we had to get them on our tour. Ninety per cent of Biters' debut is strutting brilliant rock'n'roll, reminiscent of the gonzo genius of early Hives or T. Rex on a bender. Yet their song Dreams Don't Die, perhaps the best song The Replacements never wrote, suggests there's something *really* special here. (JMc)

24 WOLF ALICE

MY LOVE IS COOL

The spikier end of Brit alt. rock underwent a revival this year, and Wolf Alice led the charge. Live, they're caustic enough to have conquered Reading & Leeds, but this debut was also sufficiently beguiling to sneak onto the Mercury Prize shortlist; the equivalent of slipping speed into the soup at the world's dullest dinner party. (MS)

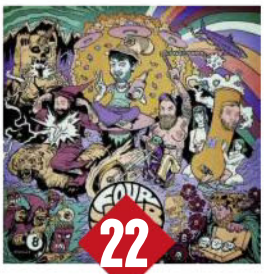
23 RAKETKANON

RKTKN #2

If you designed an actual cannon for firing rackets directly into people's ears, it could hardly cause more chaos than Belgian noise artists Raketkanon. With churning riffs, see-saw synths and lyrics in their own made-up language (no, really), these discordant loons are about as turbulent as noise-rock can get. (PT)

22 FOUR YEAR STRONG

FOUR YEAR STRONG



And you thought Four Year Strong had lost it. After their disastrous foray into Foo Fighters territory on 2011's In Some Way, Shape, Or Form, it looked like the beardy, riffy pop-punks were done. Were they feck. This self-titled album brought back the bounce, and restored our faith in FYS. (NR)

21 FIGHTSTAR

BEHIND THE DEVIL'S BACK

Charlie Simpson may have finally bitten the bullet and returned to Busted, but not before he'd revived his other, more credible band. Fightstar's first album in six years was a glorious affair, as heavy as ever. And if it ain't Busted, why fix it, right? (MS)

CHARLIE SIMPSON SPEAKS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO COME BACK AFTER SO LONG AWAY?

"It's good, man. I think we needed the time away. Before we broke up I felt like we'd reached a point to let it rest for a bit. Coming back, it felt really fresh. I felt pretty inspired, having not played heavy music for a while."

DO YOU THINK BUSTED FANS WILL TAKE TO HOW HEAVY IT IS?

"I dunno. I think it'd be quite funny if someone bought it expecting it to sound like Busted. But, to me, those worlds are totally separate. It'd be cool if it got someone into really heavy music."

THE ULTIMATE 2015 ROCK REVIEW

SONGS OF THE YEAR

THE BIGGEST TUNES THAT 2015 THREW UP!

25 MERCY by MUSE

Matt Bellamy proves you don't have to rage against the machine; you can shine with a polished, glittering stadium-pleasing anthem while still sticking it to the military-industrial complex.

24 CHEER UP LONDON by SLAVES

Power-duos remain the new three-piece, and Slaves channel The Clash and Sham 69 through a beat-up amp to glorious effect here.

23 A.M. AMNESIA by FAILURE

While they never achieved the success of '90s contemporaries, Failure returned in 2015 to weave amazing sonic tapestries like this.

22 GONE WITH THE WIND by MUNCIE GIRLS

The Brit punks are yet to release their debut album, but if the frantic Gone With The Wind is any indication, then frankly, my dear, you should give a damn.

21 DIAL TONES by AS IT IS

'It really hurts to know that I'm why your bed's half empty', sings Patty Walters. You wouldn't know he was sad by the chirpy tune, mind.

20 IRRESISTIBLE by FALL OUT BOY

The trombones and piano might have seen them move from pop-punk to parp-plink, but this is still audio gold.

19 UNDER ATTACK by SKINDRED

Christ, what do Skindred eat? When athletes have this much energy, they get investigated. For Skindred, it's business as usual.

18 WILDFIRE by CROSSFAITH

…And talking of Skindred, their singer, Benji Webbe, pops up here. Which means double-mosh.

17 SPARED IN HELL by DEFEATER

It almost feel wrong to prise individual tracks from Defeater's Abandoned album, but this rasping tale of despair and hope stands out in all the right ways.

16 NASTY by THE PRODIGY

'Nasty nasty / Justice, a waste-pit'. If you take one thing from this rager, it's that the Prodge are still, indeed, *'Narsty'*.

15 SHE'S KINDA HOT by 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

How to make 5SOS even catchier: get Good Charlotte's Madden twins in on it. There's super-glue less sticky than this.

14 I WON'T GIVE IN by ASKING ALEXANDRIA

Bitter, defiant and heavy, this introduced us to new AA singer Denis Stoff and let us know that v2.0 was go.

13 I WANT OUT by YOUNG GUNS

It still had those chunky guitars, but I Want Out saw Young Guns shooting in a new direction. Riding that danceable groove, this opened up a whole new chapter for the band.

12 DREAMS DON'T DIE by BITERS

Anyone looking for some classic rock'n'roll to really get their teeth into could do far worse than Biters. Try listening to this without swaggering. It can't be done.

11 SUPERHERO by FAITH NO MORE

With a bass groove to die for and a sugar-coated hook that still manages to be disquieting, this announced FNM's return, and that they were as twisted as ever.

10 JUGGERNAUT by FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

Try to stop this and, like with a real juggernaut, you'd end up a greasy red smear on the road. After the mellow Pure Love, Frank returned to being angry here. And it rules.

9 THE HONEYMOON SUITE by CREEPER

'So, let's get hexed, let's hang out', the Southampton New Grave mob cry like prime AFI giddy on a gallon of fizzy pop. Yeah, let's.

8 ROCK MY CAR by SCORPIONS

What rocks more than a song that goes, *'Rock! Rock! Rock!'*? One that finishes that line with *'…My car'*. German metallers Scorpions have in-auto headbanging all sewn up here.

7 TILL THE END by MOTÖRHEAD

You've heard the 'Head play loud. You've heard them play fast. But have you ever heard them actually sound a bit sad? You have now. You could almost cry…

6 WHITE NOISE by PVRIS

Okay, we know the album came out in 2014, but with the video for the title-track emerging this year, we thought we'd sneak it in; especially as that chorus remains so freakin' awesome.

5 ANAESTHETIST by ENTER SHIKARI

Rou Reynolds and co rail against NHS privatisation here. Between the message and the dance-metal pioneering going on, we have a CHOOON!

4 PRAISE ABORT by LINDEMANN

It's still a novelty hearing Rammstein frontman Till sing in English. Hopefully his kids can't understand this comic lament about how they've totally wrecked his life, mind.

3 EMPIRE OF THE CLOUDS by IRON MAIDEN

An 18-minute song about airships? It could have gone down like a lead Zeppelin, but in the hands of Iron Maiden it becomes a metal anthem of genuinely epic proportions.

2 HAPPY SONG by BRING ME THE HORIZON

With the best cheerleader chorus this side of Faith No More's Be Aggressive and a chunky metallic riff, this was the perfect gateway song to introduce a BMTH album that tore up the rulebook.

1 TALK by AGAINST THE CURRENT

Every so often, a band explodes seemingly from nowhere (or even Poughkeepsie) to blow expectations to smithereens. Against The Current were one of 2015's biggest breakouts and Talk was one of the best moments on their Gravity EP. Bristling with attitude (*'Everybody knows you're full of shit'*, sneers Chrissy Costanza) but utterly infectious, this is the spark to light a glorious 2016 for Against The Current.

CHRISSY COSTANZA SPEAKS!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE WRITTEN THE SONG OF THE YEAR!

"Thank you! It's absolutely incredible to have Talk as K!'s song of the year! We are so grateful for all of the support UK fans and Kerrang! have shown from day one. It means the world to us."

THIS IS AN ANGRY SONG, INNIT?

"Sort of. It's about those sweet-talker guys who everyone knows are full of shit. Talk is my way of saying, 'I've heard all of this before, let's just call it what it is.'"

KERRANG!

VIDEOS OF THE YEAR

ALL THE BEST FOOLISHNESS YOU GET WHEN YOU LET BANDS LOOSE WITH A CAMERA

10 WEEZER
Thank God For Girls

Lyric videos are boring, right? Not if you're Weezer. Comprising mostly of actor Galen Howard demolishing plate after plate of cannoli (and only a handful of actual lyrics), this inspired offering is unadulterated comedy gold. Even the proper follow-up couldn't top it.

9 AGNOSTIC FRONT
Old New York

NYHC legends Agnostic Front get nostalgic about the retreating rough edges of their hometown by playing a riotous show in a subway car. '*The greatest city of them all, but it just don't feel the same!*' they bellow. Apparently this is what rush hour was like in the '80s…

8 FAITH NO MORE
Sunny Side Up

A grim future finds the aged alt. legends rocking the black-and-white breakfast buffet of their depressing retirement home. Fortunately, a couple of minutes of this banger, a backhander to the orderly and a hefty dose of hallucinogens later, everyone's dirty dancing. Wahey!

7 GHOST
Cirice

Creepy children alert! And by "creepy" we mean "absolutely awesome". The Swedish ghouls – featuring a particularly fresh-faced Papa Emeritus – crash a school talent show to lure a girl to the dark side. But they end up possessing the parents, too…

6 MASTODON
Asleep In The Deep

You expect the unexpected with Mastodon videos. We knew it'd be weird. But we didn't imagine the psychotropic saucers of milk, self-sacrificing rat-gods and magic toads that appear during one kitty's odyssey through the year's most mad video.

5 PVRIS
White Noise

Thankfully not just four minutes of static fuzz, this Poltergeist-inspired clip finds Lynn Gunn struggling to bridge the trans-dimensional gap separating her from her nattily-dressed bandmates. It's a test that drives her literally up the wall and makes her head spin.

4 PARKWAY DRIVE
Vice Grip

'*GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT!*' barks Parkway frontman Winston McCall two minutes in, before piling headfirst out of a plane. Because who needs special effects when you've got a band like Parkway Drive flying through the air, grinning like idiots as they go?

3 TWENTY ONE PILOTS
Stressed Out

Big wheels. Secret handshakes. Juice pouches. The Ohioan duo relive some of childhood's best bits in a video that chucks in living room jam-sessions and family member cameos to plumb a real vein of emotional depth alongside the thumping beats that've made them stars.

2 BRING ME THE HORIZON
True Friends

Drafting in Brit actor Steve C[redacted] as the doomed detective of [redacted] haunting, Oli Sykes-directed [redacted] murder mystery, BMTH deli[redacted] hefty dose of animal sacrific[redacted] kitchen-sink brutality and windswept beauty to accompany one of That's The Spirit's best tunes.

1 FALL OUT BOY
Irresistible

FOB get their arses handed to them by a rival gang (of pro-basketball players) in a clip that combines faux-VHS editing, atrocious overdubbing and liberal use of onscreen emojis to endearingly shambolic effect. Maybe the lesson's that everyone loves an underdog. Or just that titting about is *always* funny.

20

GHOST
MELIORA

Grandiose. Ghoulish. Awash with psychedelia. Swedish fiends Ghost knew better than to err from the formula on this world-beating third offering. Regardless, and somewhat fittingly for an album whose title translates from Latin as "the pursuit of something better", Meliora manages to amp everything up to spooky, stunning effect. (SL)

17

36 CRAZYFISTS
TIME AND TRAUMA

The metalcore scene 36 Crazyfists once thrived in has long since dissolved, but that didn't stop them making the album of their career this year. Inspired by the loss of singer Brock Lindow's mother to cancer, Time And Trauma is a record comparable to Biffy Clyro's Puzzle as an intimate portrait of one man's attempt to survive insurmountable grief. A searing listen. (GG)

STAR PICK!

SIMON NEIL
BIFFY CLYRO

"I loved the new **Deafheaven** record, **New Bermuda**, I think it's an absolute belter. And **Sleaford Mods**' **Key Markets** blew me away; they're so fucking funny. I mean, some of these lyrics are hilarious. But my record of the year would have to be **Girl Band**'s **Holding Hands With Jamie**. It's a rock record that sounds unlike anything else you've ever heard. Absolutely everything about it is exactly what you don't do with a rock album."

19

MYRKUR
M

Okay, so we now know that the mysterious black metal entity known as Myrkur is actually the work of Amalie Bruun, a Danish model and musician, and not – as we sort of hoped – an actual witch who lived in a forest and ate badgers and stuff. What else do we know? She's a genius, and this is a record that will endure. (JMc)

18

SLAYER
REPENTLESS

The Bay Area legends' first album in six years, and first since the far-too-early passing of keystone guitarist Jeff Hanneman in 2013, was a victory against circumstance in itself. But that it marked such a riotously bloodthirsty return to form was cause for metalheads worldwide to go wild. Oh, and people got pissed off at the blasphemous cover, too. *Score!* (SL)

KERRY KING SPEAKS!

HOW DID IT FEEL TO WRITE AN ALBUM WITHOUT JEFF?
"It was okay. I started writing so long ago, right around the time that Jeff first got injured and had to stop playing while he tried to heal up. I came up with a ton of material because I had no idea if he was going to do half of the record, one song, half a song or anything."

WHAT DOES THE TITLE MEAN TO YOU?
"When I made up that word, I didn't make it up to be a song about Jeff – that's just how it evolved. I pinpointed how I feel Jeff looked at the world, and I thought maybe if I could give fans an insight into his perspective and how he felt about things, maybe they – and *we* – could get a little closure."

16

BARONESS
PURPLE

As you'll read in the 5K review on p50, Purple served as a crucial part in Baroness' recovery from the bus crash that almost killed them. It's a characteristically glorious affair, built of huge riffs, beautiful melodies and musical intelligence, made all the better by the fact that Baroness fought on to make it at all. A true triumph over terrible adversity. (JH)

15

MARILYN MANSON
THE PALE EMPEROR

"God is dead," quoth philosopher Nietzsche. And it looked like The God Of Fuck was as well, after a couple of dodgy records. But, like Jesus Christ, Manson was well overdue a comeback, and here he re-emerged with sleazy perverted tunes and a new fire in his tum. Nice one, Brian. (NR)

MARILYN MANSON SPEAKS!

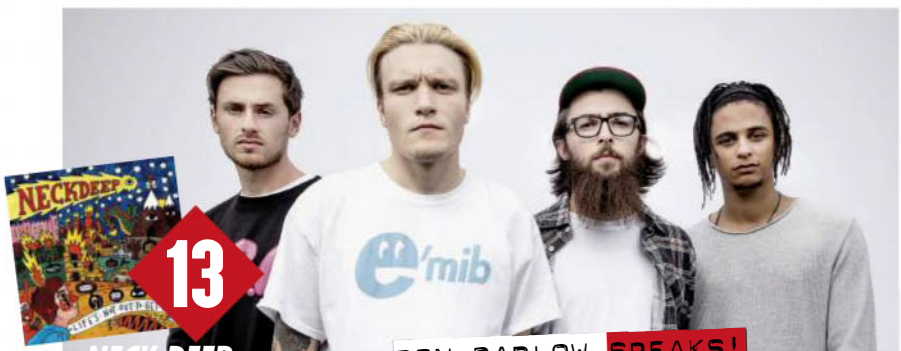
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO MAKE THE PALE EMPEROR?
"I found that if you perform the song while you're writing it, it becomes one and the same. So, we would do all the songs live. It gave me the ability to learn a different element that I never had in myself, to be able to – I hesitate to use the word 'jam' – but just the ability to just *work* with somebody."

DIDN'T YOU DO THAT ON OTHER ALBUMS?
"Not really. I never really understood how to work with a band before. It was too confusing for me."

14

ENTER SHIKARI
THE MINDSWEEP

You don't have to look far to feel that, for much of 2015, the planet seemed like it was falling apart. And The Mindsweep was the perfect soundtrack to bring us all a little bit of hope. Full of musical mayhem but lyrically laser-focused on the stuff that matters, Rou Reynolds was a lone voice of reason in a world gone mad. Respect. (MS)



13

NECK DEEP
LIFE'S NOT OUT TO GET YOU

Alright, America, with blink-182, New Found Glory and ATL, you think you have pop-punk sewn up. But we've got Neck Deep and their 5K-rated second album. Mixing sunny riffs with British grit, this says to their U.S. counterparts: "Come at us, bros!" (PT)

BEN BARLOW SPEAKS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO MAKE THIS LIST?
"It's amazing. I never thought that any album we made would be on a list like this, so it's insane. We had high hopes for this album – we wanted it to be successful, so I guess this is proof of that. It's nice knowing our hard work hasn't gone unnoticed, so thanks for considering us!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE RECORDING WITH JEREMY McKINNON?
"Hats off to Jeremy, because on the last track of the album, Rock Bottom, there was just something about it that wasn't clicking with me. Jeremy was like, 'No, honestly, listen to me and *trust me* on this one!' It was a great feeling to be proven wrong by him."

12

LAMB OF GOD
VII: STURM UND DRANG

Defiant. Cathartic. Completely uncompromised. Lamb Of God's eighth LP was as much a bold response to frontman Randy Blythe's Czech manslaughter charge and acquittal as it was an emotional chronicle of that tumultuous recent past. Thrillingly, it featured some of their sharpest and most musically diverse songs to date, too. (SL)

GAMES OF THE YEAR

5

METAL GEAR SOLID V: THE PHANTOM PAIN
Gaming's ultimate hard-ass returned this year. Want to fire rocket launchers from horseback? Now you can!

4

GUITAR HERO LIVE
New controllers! More buttons! Harder tricks! The first GH game since 2010 *shreds* its predecessors.

3

STAR WARS: BATTLEFRONT
Bring down an AT-AT! Battle the Sarlacc! Fly the Millennium Falcon! Is there a better way to prepare for The Force Awakens?

2

CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS III
The ultimate first-person shooter returns. And you know what? There's a zombie Jeff Goldblum in it!

1

FALLOUT 4
This return to the beautiful, terrifying, darkly hilarious world of Fallout has absolutely everything: hordes of enemies to be pulverised, endless settlements to be built and near-infinite depths to explore. You may need a month off…

COMICS OF THE YEAR

5

THE WALKING DEAD

TWD continues to hit the bullseye every issue. Not only in terms of bloodshed, but also the dark uncertainty and murky morals of a postapocalyptic world.

4

ARCHIE VS. PREDATOR

Pitting red-headed U.S. comic icon Archie against Predator mightn't make much (any?) sense. But it's a gory treat for fans of blood.

3

PLUTONA

Stand By Me with superheroes? That's unexpected. But Plutona tells the story of a group of kids stumbling across the body of the titular Plutona with heart-rending elegance.

2

PROVIDENCE

Alan Moore's epic deconstruction of the concepts of horror titan H. P. Lovecraft represents a stunning return to form. The Watchmen of horror? It might well be…

1

DESCENDER

There's astounding power in this tale of one android boy's struggle to survive in a universe where his whole kind have been marginalised. Comics are rarely this touching.

11

THE WONDER YEARS

NO CLOSER TO HEAVEN

You know what to expect from a Wonder Years record: literate lyrics, social realism and that rarest of musical commodities – absolute honesty on subjects like the death of loved ones. What you perhaps didn't expect from a band on their *fifth* album is their upward trajectory to show no signs of plateauing. The Wonder Years remain perfect. (JH)

10

YOUNG GUNS

ONES AND ZEROS

Some day, provided we aren't invaded by human-eating aliens and/or destroy ourselves and the planet we live on (bit of politics for you, there), we will look back at Young Guns' third album as a work of brilliance we didn't quite understand properly at the time. It's Duran Duran meets Nirvana! It should have made them megastars! (JMc)

9

NO DEVOTION

PERMANENCE

Out of the darkness… comes beauty. Joy. Hope. And one of the bravest debuts of all time. An intoxicating brew of Primal Scream's psychedelic swirl and hardcore-honed disco beats – New Order meets Fugazi, perhaps – however you want to box it, it's impossible to listen to Permanence without your soul starting to swell. (JMc)

8

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

BLOSSOM

The comeback of the year – and pretty close to being the album of it, too. The former Pure Love man might have spent some time *not* wanting to sing about hate, but Christ-standing-on-an-upturned-plug is he good at it. This is a record worthy of sitting in cannon with Frank's work with Gallows. Yes, it's *that* good. (JMc)

7

ALL TIME LOW

FUTURE HEARTS

This year, All Time Low released the album that saw them take that giant step from scene heroes to major-league stars. Future Hearts hit the top spot in the UK and Number Two in the States. They've done it not by making wholesale changes, but by honing what they do best. It's a slick, joyous slice of pop-punk perfection that few of their contemporaries can match. (PT)

ALEX GASKARTH SPEAKS!

WHY DO YOU THINK FUTURE HEARTS HAS BEEN SUCH A HIT?

"There's plenty of stuff on the album that people are going to feel familiar with. Looking back, that's how every All Time Low record has been. There's songs that feel like classic ATL and songs that push the boundary so we don't get bored!"

THIS HAS BEEN A HELL OF YEAR FOR YOU…

"Yeah, we've been really busy, but it's been great. Especially in the UK – we did The O2 with You Me At Six back in February, which was amazing. And then Reading & Leeds were incredible, as well!"

6

FAITH NO MORE

SOL INVICTUS

Any band can get back together. But only the great ones do something with a reunion beyond nostalgia. Six years after Faith No More first reunited, and 17 after they split, they finally got round to making new music, declaring: "It's time to get a little creative." Or a lot creative, as it turned out. (MS)

5

PARKWAY DRIVE

IRE

The sweaty-palmed anxiety that met Winston McCall announcing that Parkway were messing with their recipe was understandable. Yet greatness never comes from standing still, and in deconstructing their very essence, keeping the heart and discarding the fat, Parkway Drive made their best LP to date. (SC)

4

MOTÖRHEAD

BAD MAGIC

After a series of health scares, Lemmy's lot returned this year with a collection of songs that matches their best-ever work. In fact, this, their 22nd album, might just *be* their best. It's certainly top three. Bad Magic is furious fun throughout, and, in Till The End, Lemmy even wrote his version of Sinatra's My Way. (JMc)

STAR PICK!

BRENDON URIE
PANIC! AT THE DISCO

"I'd have to lean towards **Kendrick Lamar**'s **To Pimp A Butterfly**. I've never heard a rapper be so adamant about changing the genre and its image, from rapping over jazz music, to playing characters in songs."

3

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
BLURRYFACE

Easily the breakout success story of 2015, twenty one pilots conquered charts all over the world with their brilliant fourth album, Blurryface. But for all their unbelievable achievements and the unbridled confidence of the genre-hopping music, this was a surprisingly vulnerable album. One that saw singer/multi-instrumentalist Tyler Joseph battling with Blurryface – his alter ego – for his very soul. (NR)

TYLER JOSEPH SPEAKS!

WELL, YOU GUYS HAVE HAD A BIG YEAR, HAVEN'T YOU?
"Everything has been incredible this year. The album going to Number One was unbelievable. And we've played some of our biggest shows ever – especially in the UK. The show in London at Shepherd's Bush Empire was crazy."

WHAT'S THE FUTURE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU, THEN??
"As much as we have visions and ideas of where we want to go, I don't think we ever really try to move too quickly past where we're at now. We're here right now, and that's the most important thing."

2

IRON MAIDEN
THE BOOK OF SOULS

Two discs. An hour and a half. An 18-minute prog epic about a doomed airship. Not only was Maiden's 16th album yet another iron girder of metallic might – it's the most ambitious record they've ever done. That its release acted as a kind of celebration that frontman Bruce Dickinson had beaten throat cancer only made its arrival all the more welcome. Forty years since Steve Harris first formed his band, they remain metal's most untouchable heroes. (NR)

BRUCE DICKINSON SPEAKS!

NUMBER ONE IN A LOT OF COUNTRIES. MUST BE NICE...
"Actually, it went straight in at Number One in over 40 countries, making it the most successful chart album Maiden's ever had. So, yes, we're very happy with that!"

YOU DIDN'T GIG IN 2015. ARE YOU ITCHING TO GET BACK ON THE ROAD?
"Touring is what Maiden thrives on, and it's what we do best. What with everything that's happened in the last 12 months, our mind-set is, 'Let's get out there and do it!'"

FILMS OF THE YEAR

5

EX MACHINA
Ex Machina's not just the story of a programmer testing a robot's ability to act like a human. It also has the best disco scene since Saturday Night Fever.

4

SOAKED IN BLEACH
P.I. Tom Grant's doc presents a case that Kurt Cobain's death was more than it seems. It's perhaps 2015's toughest watch.

3

ANT-MAN
Paul Rudd as a tiny ant super-hero. Is this a shit idea? Weirdly, no. And it's an absolute laff-fest to boot.

2

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
Is it a sequel? Is it a reboot? Who cares: what we have here, people, is one of the best action flicks *ever*.

1

JURASSIC WORLD
Set 22 years after Jurassic Park, the dino-Disneyland is open again and the owners are looking to jumpstart the interest of jaded visitors with a genetic hybrid dinosaur called Indominus Rex. What could go wrong? Everything...

1

BRING ME THE HORIZON

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

■ Oli Sykes and his bandmates seemed to relish littering the path towards their fifth album with the breadcrumbs and red herrings as to what it would actually be like. First there was the sea-change-suggesting Drown. Then there was their guerrilla umbrella logo that offered no clues. Happy Song followed, which had more in common with their tunes of yore but, with the benefit of hindsight, can now been seen for what it is: by far the heaviest song on the album, and a bridge from the old world. Finally, there was the curveball of Throne, which suggested BMTH were turning into Linkin Park. But once we got to wrap our ears around the finished album – heralded by Doomed's metal-free electro vibes – it was nothing like we expected. Distorted guitars were thin on the ground, but there was pop, dance and a saxophone. It's a formidable achievement – trumped only by the fact that a band that was once the most divisive in the UK had united the doters and the doubters with their most left-field album to date. Clever boys. (JH)

THE WINNER SPEAKS!

OLI SYKES

CONGRATULATIONS, OLI! HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT'S THE SPIRIT, LOOKING BACK FROM WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

"Proud. We basically pushed ourselves to go straight back into the studio [after Wembley last December]. We had no pressure from the label – it was all off our own backs. We could have easily got away with having it out at the start of next year, so, for us, we had all the time in the world and we were producing it ourselves, so we didn't finish until we were 100 per cent happy. There was no pressure from anyone else, and I think that really shows. Every record we've done – as much as I love them – we always ran out of time and wished we did something different. But not this time."

AND DID IT TURN OUT HOW YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD WHEN YOU STARTED WRITING IT?

"Yeah. I mean, we've learned a lot in 10 years of being a band, and I think we've really figured out how you can pretty much avoid any problems. I think the main thing for us comes down to demoing – we never really used to demo our tracks, and in not doing so we never got time to reflect on them."

WAS THAT A PROBLEM BEFORE?

"I think it was a big setback for us, because basically I used to have – well, I *do* have – such a big part in the writing of the actual music. Before Jordan [Fish, electronics] came along, it was me and Lee [Malia, guitar] writing. I'm not a musician in terms of the theory and the technicalities of it, so it was a really weird and

difficult process where I'd be recording riffs but I'd sing them and Lee would try to transcribe what I was singing to him. But then I'd have to start working on the melodies and the lyrics and everything else while in the studio. Although it was fine, it also meant you never really got time to reflect on what you did."

WHAT WAS THE WRITING PROCESS LIKE?

"We demoed everything at my house. Jordan's obviously the tech wizard, and the demos he was doing sounded better than our first few albums! We had a really good idea of what we wanted, to the point where I was like, 'Why are we going into the studio? We could literally record it here.' So, we had a really good idea of what it was going to sound like."

YOU RECORDED IN SANTORINI. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN NICE…

"Totally. When we go to record it's usually in England, and we did a lot in Sweden. And, as cool as it was, the studios were on industrial estates and stuff. They weren't in places where you could really appreciate what you were doing. I think if anybody asked us if Santorini [an island in the Aegean Sea] influenced the album, I wouldn't say it influenced the *music*, but it made the process as easy as it could be. It was such a laid-back, awesome experience. It meant we could just focus on the music and not get stressed."

"WE'RE SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH HAS CHANGED"

● OLI SYKES ●

WHY DO YOU THINK IT HAS CONNECTED WITH SO MANY PEOPLE?

"I'm not sure. It's obviously the most accessible thing we've ever done. I think anyone can pick it up, and that was kind of the aim when we were writing it. We wanted to make heavy music that anyone can like – you didn't have to be into this particular type of music to appreciate it. At the same time, I think where a lot of bands do that, you lose sight of what they're talking about, what their aim is and what they actually like themselves. I guess we made sure that we didn't do that. The lyrics are still very dark and serious, and haven't been watered down to appeal to a bigger audience. It's just that the influences we drew from *were* from more popular music and stuff that *we* enjoy."

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TURNING PEOPLE ON TO HEAVIER MUSIC WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE LISTENED TO IT BEFORE?

"I think for a lot of people it's like, 'I've never heard lyrics like this, I've never heard songs like this,' and I think because of that it just hits harder. I think so many people connected with Throne and Happy Song that may not have connected with songs like Shadow Moses, because it's just too much for them. I couldn't really tell you, to be honest – we're surprised at how much has changed!"

For more Review Of The Year chaos, including the K! staff's albums and songs of the year, head to ***Kerrang.com*** *now!*

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

YOU DO THE MATH!

IT WOULD TAKE YOU 37 HOURS TO LISTEN TO EVERY ALBUM. THAT'S OVER A DAY AND A HALF!

216 NUMBER OF BAND MEMBERS INVOLVED IN ALL THE ALBUMS

YOUNGEST ARTIST 19 LUKE HEMMINGS (5SOS)

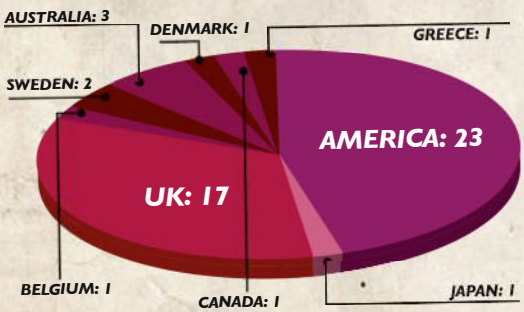
OLDEST ARTIST 69 LEMMY

0 NEW METALLICA ALBUMS

7 DAYS MARILYN MANSON'S BINGE LASTED (ACCORDING TO THE SONG)

WHERE DID THE ROCK COME FROM?

A RARE ENTRY FOR BELGIUM, THERE…



THE BEST OF THE REST!

Sadly, there were so many great records this year that they just couldn't all fit on to our list. **Dreamcrash** by Finnish goth-punks **Grave Pleasures**, for example, which Associate Ed Nick Ruskell insists on playing twice a day. Features Ed Sam Coare had us all scratching our heads to former Oceansize bloke **Vennart**'s **The Demon Joke**'s brilliant angles. Elsewhere, New Music Ed Jennyfer J. Walker had us all going nuts to new pop-punk kings **State Champs**' **Around The World And Back**, while Deputy Ed George Garner drove people nuts with the terrifying noise of **Immortal Bird**'s **Empress/Abscess**. And then there was Editor James McMahon, who spent his time being torn between his two favourite hidden gems: **Screaming Females**' **Rose Mountain** and **Bully**'s **Feels like**. Like we said, too much good music…

BEARTOOTH

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES **THANKS TO:** THE SOUTHAMPTON ARMS, KENTISH TOWN

KERRANG!

PETE WENTZ & PATRICK STUMP

FALL OUT BOY

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY DIGITAL ART: STEVE HORSFALL

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES **DIGITAL ART:** STEVE HORSFALL

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES DIGITAL ART: STEVE HORSFALL

KERRANG!

WILL GOULD

CREEPER

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES DIGITAL ART: STEVE HORSFALL

KERRANG!
ASH COSTELLO
NEW YEARS DAY
PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

‘Would I have made it without the MU? Probably. If I was starting out again, would I still join? Definitely.’

—

‘The MU has been around even longer than me. Helping musicians of all ages and genres. Let’s make sure they continue to do so.

—

Jimmy Page

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REBEL LIFE

2015 HAS BEEN A YEAR THAT **BLACK VEIL BRIDES** WILL NEVER FORGET. HERE, **ANDY BIERSACK** TAKES US INSIDE YOUR EXCLUSIVE MIX CD, AS HE REVEALS THE SOUNDTRACK TO 12 MONTHS OF HIGHS – AND LOWS…

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** JEREMY SAFFER, PAUL HARRIES, LISA JOHNSON, CHRIS CASEY, GETTY

You can tell a lot about a band by the music they listen to, and perhaps even more by the songs they'd recommend for somebody else. The CD you will have found accompanying this magazine, that you might well be holding in your hands right now, or filling your ears with, contains tracks hand-picked by the five members of Black Veil Brides. There are tracks that influenced them growing up, and there are tracks that are inspiring them right now. There are songs that have made them laugh, songs that have made them cry and songs that have provided the soundtrack to their year.

Most of all, though, they are songs that *matter* to Black Veil Brides.

"How important is music in my life?" ponders BVB's charismatic frontman, Andy Biersack. "It's always been huge. I sometimes think about what I'd be if I weren't a musician, or if I hadn't had this calling, and I can't actually imagine my life without it. It's linked to every major relationship, every friendship; everything in my life comes from being a musician or being involved in the world of musicians. Not only has it helped shape me as a person in my interests and even my intellectual endeavours, it's probably one of the most important factors in the development of me as an adult human being."

Some of the bands on this week's CD, such as glam-punk luminaries the **New York Dolls**, shock-rock icons **Twisted Sister** and goth-tinged horror punks **Aiden**, had a major impact on the spectacle and visual aesthetic of Black Veil Brides. It's no secret that the band and Andy, in particular, were heavily influenced in their early days by bands with a glammy, theatrical bent (the likes of Kiss and Mötley Crüe spring to mind), but there are also a number of surprises lurking in their playlist. From the psychobilly twang of **Tiger Army** to the punk-fuelled rush of **Rancid** and the anthemic alt.rock of **Our Lady Peace**, this is a selection that touches every corner of the rock scene.

So, does Andy think people might be surprised at the diversity of the tracks on offer here?

"I think it would be more surprising if people thought we only listened to '80s hard rock," he laughs. "The internet and streaming capabilities have diversified people's music tastes. It used to be rarer that you'd meet someone who was majorly eclectic when it came to what they were listening to. I think

SONGS

Ashley Purdy liked to put a few extra quid in his pocket with some on-tour call centre shift work

young kids in particular are able to absorb a lot more different types of music, just by virtue of the fact that it's so much more accessible."

And how much does this album represent the soundtrack of your year?

"Oh, these are the songs that we'll go to a lot. Actually, when we're on tour there's not always a tremendous amount of time for listening to music. I also like to listen to political and comedy podcasts on tour, but when we're making a 12-hour flight to England, we'll load up with this music…"

There have certainly been plenty of long-haul flights for Black Veil Brides in 2015. Their touring schedule kicked off on home soil back in February, as the Black Mass tour in support of last year's self-titled album rumbled back into life. From the USA and Canada, they hit the UK before flying on to the likes of Russia, Mexico and Brazil. They hit the Warped Tour in the U.S., played a clutch of European festivals, including a triumphant return to Download, and they headlined the Warped UK extravaganza in October. Then it was back to South America before they finished the year, and this album's touring cycle, with a couple of final appearances in the States.

That's quite a heavy schedule for anyone, but for Black Veil Brides, a tour-heavy year is a year well spent.

"I think most years at this point are tour-heavy years," Andy laughs. "But we made a record that we were really proud of, and any time that happens in your life, if you're lucky enough to have a great response to a record, you owe it to the audience to tour and to play the songs live. I think this year was the culmination, though, and the biggest year of touring we've done so far. The band has reached a different level of success and we've been fortunate enough to go to new places and play bigger venues."

If you're wondering what sort of music gets Black Veil Brides into the right mind-set for getting onstage night after night, look again at that CD tracklist and hone in on the high-energy punk clatter of **Rancid**'s Olympia WA. and Drain The Blood by **The Distillers**.

"Punk songs like those are great for getting you fired up," Andy says. "One of the difficulties in putting together a mix CD like this, though, is deciding what to leave off. Another record that's always on heavy rotation before we go

Catering at London's Garage wasn't up to much

onstage is Against Me!'s White Crosses, and we play a lot of Pantera backstage. Anything that gets your blood up. It's very rare that anyone's sitting backstage listening to jazz. Maybe [guitarist] Jinxx will be listening to classical music through his headphones, but it's mostly punk and metal backstage."

One show that Black Veil Brides didn't need any extra motivation for, though, was this year's Download.

"We've faced difficulties throughout our Download history, whether it's tech issues or whatever else, and we finally came out and showed the band that we are," Andy says. "We kicked a lot of asses and turned a lot of heads that day. I felt like it was a performance we needed to have."

In 2012, of course, BVB were pelted with missiles by certain sections of a hostile crowd. It turns out that one of the artists on the band's mix CD was instrumental in helping them to deal with the experience.

"One of my biggest heroes is Dee Snider from **Twisted Sister**," Andy nods. "Before we went to that Download, Dee talked to me about their first experience at Donington and how people were literally throwing bags of shit and bottles. He famously went out and challenged however many thousands of people to a physical fight, which in some ways helped them turn a corner and gain a new respect. So, my intention was to go out there and if people did give us hell, to show them that we weren't gonna take it – for want of a better phrase. I think if someone is going to mess with you, it's within your rights to stand up for yourself and show them you're not going to lay down and let them talk crap about you or make you feel insignificant."

Just two days prior to this year's triumphant Download appearance, Black Veil Brides aptly won the Best Live Band category at the Relentless Kerrang!

Andy embraces his inner Jon Snow for our Game Of Thrones poster special in April

RELIVED

LOOKING BACK ON THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF BVB'S PAST 12 MONTHS

FEB 5

The band play their first show of the year, kicking off the 2015 North American leg of their Black Mass tour in Richmond, Virginia. It was the start of a marathon, but they explode from the traps like sprinters, with a 17-song set.

MAR 13

BVB play to just 600 fans (*left*) at an intimate show in London. "In England we went straight from supporting Murderdolls' club tour to headlining Academy-sized venues," Andy says. "We never played tiny clubs, so it was great to do something removed from our experience."

APR 3

BVB hit Saint Petersburg for the start of their first-ever Russian tour. Check out the awesome footage from Jake Pitts' vlog (available on YouTube). You can see him messing about with his hair, but once the show starts, his guitar cam puts you right in the action.

APR 25

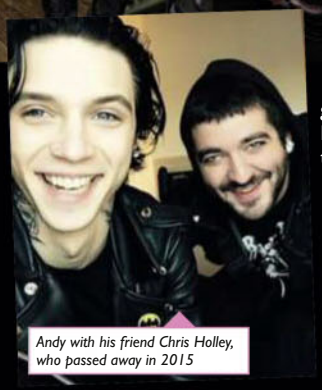
Andy leads his charges to the Monsters Of Rock festival in Brazil, which sprang from the original festival held through the '80s and early '90s at Donington. BVB appear behind Ozzy Osbourne, Judas Priest and Motörhead.

BVB put past Download "difficulties" behind them in a roaring set this past June

"LIFE IS MORE FRAGILE THAN WE WANT TO BELIEVE"

ANDY BIERSACK

Jinxx caught a whiff of Andy's post-show pit



Andy with his friend Chris Holley, who passed away in 2015

Awards. Looking back now, however, it's a bittersweet memory, as it was the last time they got to hang out with their friend and guitar tech Chris Holley, who also worked with bands including Asking Alexandria and Motionless In White.

"I can't think of anything worse than your friend, your 26-year-old friend, dying instantly of a sort of phantom situation. He had deep vein thrombosis," Andy sighs. "We take a flight from England to the USA five or six times a year and he had vein issues with circulation that we were unaware of.

"It's obviously a horrifying thing. It's such an odd death, for someone so young to die that way. It's been hard and in many ways it's helped me realise that life is a bit more fragile than we want to believe. Not to say that I've been looking at my own mortality every day, but I've certainly tried to make some changes in my life. I've cut bad foods from my diet, I've been trying to work out more, and I stopped drinking. Moments like that will make you realise it can all be taken away very quickly, so why not do your best to be as healthy as you can be?"

Nothing can completely ease the pain of a tragedy like that, and perhaps that's as it should be. Music can help all of us get through tough times, however, and, for Andy Biersack, Trusty Chords by post-hardcore luminaries **Hot Water Music** is one of those songs that has always been there for him.

"That song resonated with me so much when I was in high school, growing up where I did. Ultimately, I think when you go away you start to feel a much stronger fondness for the small town you grow up in, but when you're a kid and you can't wait to get out, that's a great representation of it. It's about heartbreak and so many other things," he says.

The band's stint on this year's Warped Tour was a more celebratory occasion, especially for the singer, who got to spend some time on the road with his significant other. The biggest curveball on the CD would appear to be Before It Rains by **Juliet Simms** – at least until you consider that Andy and the singer/songwriter, and former winner of the U.S. version of The Voice, have been an item for the past few years.

Not that Andy would concede that she's there on anything other than merit, of course.

"Juliet has been doing her band, Automatic Loveletter, for quite a long time and she's also branched out into a solo career post-The Voice. I'm really very proud of her and very excited about what she's done. I think that record is a great representation of classic hard rock with soul and has that Janis Joplin, Rolling Stones kind of swagger," he says.

What was it like getting to tour with Juliet?

"It's great because spending time together is always difficult when you're in a relationship and you're both touring people. Being on the road together is a rare treat and we enjoyed it a lot. You miss the people you love when you're away, so if you can have them with

MAY 7

Andy appears in singer/songwriter (and his long-term girlfriend) Juliet Simms' video for End Of The World. "She's got an incredible voice. The song is a great example of her record, so I hope people listen to it and pick up the EP," he says, in a cheeky plug.

MAY 14

Andy Biersack announces his forthcoming solo album, under the moniker Andy Black, in an exclusive K! interview. "[The project is] a fun and artistic way to try something musically I wouldn't want to force into BVB," he told us. "It was important for me not to tarnish it."

JUN 11

BVB scoop the 'K' for Best Live Band at the Relentless Kerrang! Awards. "Sadly it was the last time I got to hang out with my friend Chris Holley. We spent the whole night together," Andy says.

JUN 13

A triumphant return to the Download festival – the venue where, in 2012, BVB faced a barrage of missiles. "I'd definitely say the Download performance was a highlight [of the year]," says Andy.

JUN 14

Chris Holley, guitar tech for a number of bands including BVB, Asking Alexandria and Motionless in White, tragically passes away. Jake Pitts paid tribute, saying: "I am at a complete loss of words. Life is so strange. He was a great guy, a great friend, a very talented musician."

In one of five K! covers this year, Andy teams up with his hero, Alice Cooper, for our Hallowe'en Spooktacular

BVB's idea of playing a game of Statues with 10,000 fans at Warped UK: not ideal

Jinxx was, not even ironically, playing the world's smallest violin

you, it's all that much better."

Another song on the CD is Going Lohan by **From First To Last**, which takes a wry swipe at celebrity culture. The title refers to former teen idol Lindsay Lohan and contains the lines: *'And you knew you were in love / The first time you ever eye-fucked the camera / But now you want space, now you want privacy / I'm sorry, darling, your life is public property'*.

As one half of a celebrity couple, and the frontman of a band ever-increasing in popularity, is this, we wonder, a song with particular resonance for Andy?

"I have a very interesting form of fame – I like to refer to it as 'specific fame'," he laughs. "I am mostly anonymous in my life unless it's a very specific kind of person, who when they see me in public will freak out. But, by and large, I can go to the grocery store. Maybe one or two people will come up and ask for a picture, but I'm not getting hounded by paparazzi, or anything. I can only imagine what it would be like to be in that position where you're so famous you can't go anywhere or do anything.

"We recently watched the Amy Winehouse documentary [the acclaimed Amy, by director Asif Kapadia], and towards the end of her life it just seemed so insane, the way that she was being hounded by the English press," he adds. "It's definitely something that I don't know if I'll ever experience and I don't know if I'd ever want to, but you never know and you wonder what that would be like."

Black Veil Brides' level of 'specific fame' was enough to see them headlining Warped UK in October – which, says Andy, goes down as a definite highlight of the year, despite the odd technical difficulty.

A little further down the bill at Warped, but delivering one of the standout sets of the day, were Southampton New Gravers **Creeper**. The goth-punks are one of Black Veil Brides' favourite new bands, which is why their track, VCR, also made the list.

"I've got to admit, I was a little late to the boat on them. I wasn't there at the beginning, but I met those guys after the last Kerrang! Awards, and they came up to me and said they were fans," Andy recalls. "Now, people come up a lot and they'll say their band name and it's hard to keep track of everybody you meet. So, I never really got round to checking them out. A buddy of mine was talking about them on a podcast and I decided to check out their video and completely fell in love. They're incredibly talented and I think they're good enough to go the distance and make something really special."

Finding new bands who are doing something genuinely exciting is, Andy says, a real inspiration for Black Veil Brides. Their main motivation, however, is simply to keep improving on their own terms. This year saw the release of their first live DVD, Alive And Burning, which gave them their first Number One release both at home and in the UK.

"You look at the DVD and we're probably at our peak thus far, both sonically and in terms of our live performance. But that doesn't mean you can't grow and do better. I don't like to get complacent," Andy says.

Andy onstage with Juliet Simms during this summer's Warped Tour

"WE'RE ALREADY WRITING THE NEXT RECORD"
ANDY BIERSACK

Before we see Black Veil Brides again there's the small matter of the singer's Andy Black solo project to get out of the way. It is, he says, all finished bar the mixing, and ready for a New Year's release. The details still have to be ironed out, but Andy says he expects to see a single out some time in February, with the album released shortly after that.

As for Black Veil Brides, they've already started work on album number five but, Andy says, that doesn't mean we'll be seeing it as soon as we might hope.

"We've already begun the writing process for the next record," he nods. "In the next two weeks, Jake [Pitts, guitar and certified recording engineer] is going to start officially in preproduction. We're going to be making the record over the course of the next few months, but we're really going to take our time with this one. We've got some songs in the pipeline that are really strong, and the last time I felt this confident about the opening to a record was [2013's] Wretched And Divine, where we really started cooking before we even got properly started.

"So, yeah, the Black Veil Brides machine will keep rolling and there's no stopping us. Some people feared that because of this Andy Black project, things would slow down for the band. The reality is that we already intended taking a little time to make this record, so nothing's really changing – I just have twice the workload."

Black Veil Brides are certainly a band who know all about hard work. Their 2015 has been built around a gruelling tour schedule, but they wouldn't have it any other way.

"If you work hard and apply yourself, it's possible to maintain a fanbase, but you've got to go that extra mile and make sure that they feel that they're getting the best out of you. It's something I take very seriously, to try to give all of myself," Andy says.

With that work ethic and, of course, the right soundtrack to help keep them going, there's little doubt that 2016 will bring even bigger and better things for BVB.

What's soundtracked your 2015? Let us know via ***Kerrang.com!***

JUN 19
The band join the U.S. Warped Tour in California. As well as playing a succession of blistering shows (quite literally sometimes, given the heat), Andy delivers a number of 'Think For Yourself' workshops, which he describes as "an open discussion about creating your own path".

JUL 10
The band release their first-ever live DVD in Alive And Burning. "It was our first Number One release in the UK and in the States," beams Andy. "For us it was really a great reflection of the last half-decade or more of being road-dogs."

SEP 23
Andy appears alongside Lynn Gunn of PVRIS and Patty Walters of As It Is in Set It Off's video for Wild Wild World. The guests are invited to hold up placards with inspirational quotes on them and Andy goes for 'Be the change you wish to see in the world' by Mahatma Gandhi.

SEP 29

Andy posts a pic of himself and one Gerard Way, following a day's work on the Andy Black record. Gerard joins other guests including Patrick Stump and the world agrees that this record does, indeed, keep getting more exciting.

OCT 9
BVB return to Mexico City before heading further south to Argentina and Chile. Drummer Christian 'CC' Coma is struggling with a hand injury, however. "He was experiencing some really bad pain in his thumb and his hand. He just assumed that it was cramp…" recalls Andy.

With the Bat-Signal too subtle for Batman to notice, The Joker had a field day

YOUR EXCLUSIVE BVB MIX CD!

1) TWISTED SISTER – I Wanna Rock
Written by Dee Snider
Published by Universal/MCA Music Ltd.
P & C 1984 WEA International Inc.
Licensed courtesy of Warner Music UK Ltd.
www.twistedsister.com
Available on Stay Hungry

2) HOT WATER MUSIC – Trusty Chords
Written by J. Black, C. Ragan, G. Rebelo, C. Wollard
Published by I Like Mine Slow (SESAC) / Nudie Magazine Day (SESAC) / Lockgroove (SESAC) / Gitterdoneson (SESAC)
P & C 2002 Epitaph Europe
Licensed courtesy of Epitaph Europe
www.hotwatermusic.com
Available on Caution

3) THE DISTILLERS – Drain The Blood
Written by Armstrong
Published by Distilla Nation Music
P & C 2003 WEA International Inc.
Licensed courtesy of Warner Music UK Ltd.
Available on Coral Fang

4) RANCID – Olympia WA.
Written by T. Armstrong, L. Fredrickson, M. Freeman
Published by I Want To Go Where The Action Is Music (ASCAP)
P & C 1995 Epitaph Europe
Licensed courtesy of Epitaph Europe
www.rancidrancid.com
Available on …And Out Come The Wolves

5) NEW YORK DOLLS – Personality Crisis
Written by Johnny Thunders, David Johansen
Published by Warner-Chappell / EMI Songs Ltd
P & C 1992 Skydog International (www.skydog.fr)
Licensed courtesy of Jungle-Records.com & Skydog.fr
Available on New York Dolls

6) JULIET SIMMS – Before It Rains
Written by Juliet Simms
Published by Juliet Simms Publishing (BMI)
P & C 2014
Licensed courtesy of Ju Ju Productions Inc.
www.julietsimms.com
Available on All or Nothing

7) OUR LADY PEACE – Somewhere Out There
Written by R. Maida
Published by Under Zenith Publishing / Sony / ATV Music Publishing Canada
P & C 2002
Licensed courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment Inc.
www.ourladypeace.com
Available on Gravity

8) CREEPER – VCR
Written by Ian James Miles
Published by Copyright Control
P & C 2014
Licensed courtesy of Creeper
www.creepercult.com
Available on Creeper EP

10) FROM FIRST TO LAST – Going Lohan
Written by Matt Good, Derek Bloom, Matt Manning, Blake Steiner
Self-published
P & C 2010
Licensed courtesy of Rise Records
www.facebook.com/FromFirstToLast
Available on Throne To The Wolves

11) AIDEN – There Will Be Blood
Written by William Roy Francis, Nicholas Alexander Wiggins, Angel Dejesus Ibarra
Published by Another Victory, Inc.
P & C 2011
Licensed courtesy of Victory Records
www.aiden.org
Available on Some Kind of Hate

12) TIGER ARMY – Forever Fades Away
Written by K. Nick Jones (aka Nick 13)
Published by WereCat Publishing (ASCAP)
P & C 2007 Hellcat Records
Licensed courtesy of Hellcat Records
www.tigerarmy.com
Available on Music From Regions Beyond

OCT 18

BVB co-headline Warped Tour UK alongside their good buds Asking Alexandria. "To get the chance to headline Warped in a country that has been our biggest champions was a special day," gushes Andy.

OCT 22

The band are forced to cancel a show at the Majestic Ventura Theater in Ventura, California, due to CC's hand injury – now diagnosed as torn ligaments. "We will be returning to Los Angeles for him to see a specialist to heal his hand to the best of his abilities," they announce.

OCT 24

The rest and treatment allows CC to continue and the marathon finally comes to a close as the band play the last show of the touring cycle for Black Veil Brides IV at the Aftershock Festival in Sacramento, alongside the likes of Slipknot and Marilyn Manson.

NOV 11

With that schedule it's pretty obvious that BVB are superheroes, so it's only fitting that a range of BVB action figures – or more accurately, '3D printed figurines' – are announced… Just in time for Christmas!

LIVES

RATINGS
KKKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH

PLUS: SKINDRED, AS LIONS, ARCANE ROOTS

SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY, LONDON. 28.11.15

KKKKK

5FDP TRIUMPH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY AT WEMBLEY

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

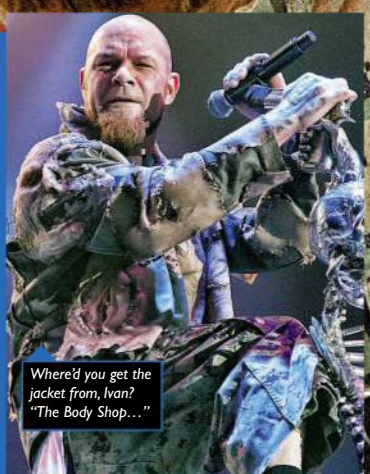
GOT YOUR Six isn't just the name of Five Finger Death Punch's sixth album; it's their ethos. It is, as frontman Ivan Moody recently told K!, a way of telling fans, 'You've had my back, now I've got yours.' It's also a pledge tested to its limits when online rumours suggested the band's recent show in Milan was a possible target for IS. Understandably, the gig was postponed – and tonight's one looked as if it might go the same way. But, with safety assurances given, the show must go on; and tonight is as much about 5FDP's unwavering commitment to sticking by their fans as it is celebrating this massive milestone.

Unfortunately they're doing so without their co-headliners Papa Roach or Howard Jones' mob, Devil You Know. And, in an appointment from out of left field, Arcane Roots have been drafted in as openers. They stick out like a sore thumb, despite playing heavier new tracks like Energy Is Never Lost, Just Redirected, but in isolation the Kingston trio show just how good they can be on a bigger stage.

You could argue that As Lions frontman Austin Dickinson is genetically predisposed to command rooms this size. And he and his new metalcore mob really do command, despite the best efforts of a faulty mic. Nothing holds Skindred back, however, as they place a sizeable cherry *atop* the cherry already on the cake of a killer year. It's hard to tell what's most incredible: the fact they manage to get an entire venue of another band's fans to do the Newport Helicopter, or that they momentarily make you forget they're not the headliners.

As an attention-grabbing entrance, Ivan's appearance in a coat covered with body parts (including a face for a shoulder pad) is up there. And that's to say nothing of the Hades levels of pyro 5FDP let off tonight. It's something of a Frankenstein's monster of a set, too: effortlessly stitching together their technical, balls-to-the-wall bulldozers (Burn MF, Battle Born) and the mobiles-aloft exercises in emotional earnestness (Under And Over It, Far From Home). But through it all, there's a feeling of defiance, and of a huge amount of love and respect going both ways between band and audience, that goes far beyond losing it to the music.

"This is the best show of our entire fucking career," Ivan declares. Given how masterfully he and his bandmates have overcome adversity and risen to the challenge in the face of such intense pressures, it's hard to disagree.



Where'd you get the jacket from, Ivan? "The Body Shop…"

"Okay, everyone, where's the fuckin' basketball? Let's go!"

STAR SHOUT!

ZOLTAN BATHORY

(FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH, GUITAR)

ZOLTAN, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HEADLINE WEMBLEY, SIR?

"Playing Wembley is like landing on the moon and sticking your flag into the ground. Worldwide, there are a handful of venues – Madison Square Garden, the Budokan in Japan – that if a band ever achieves playing them, it's a *huge* deal!"

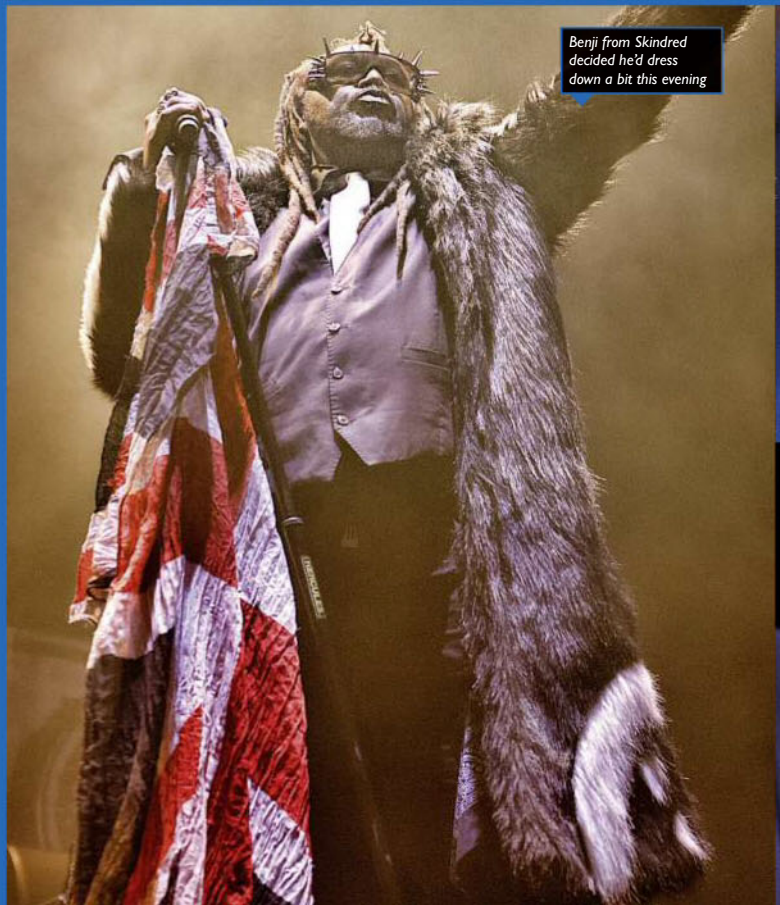
IT LOOKED LIKE TONIGHT MIGHT NOT HAPPEN, THOUGH…

"We got literally hundreds and hundreds of tweets and emails, especially from England, with fans telling us, 'We *will* come out, please don't cancel the show!' I felt a real unity between the band and fans. We were aware of the backlash against a lot of bands that have gone home. All I'll say about that is: it's easy to be an armchair warrior from thousands of miles away."

SADLY, YOUR BROTHERS IN PAPA ROACH COULDN'T BE HERE FOR IT…

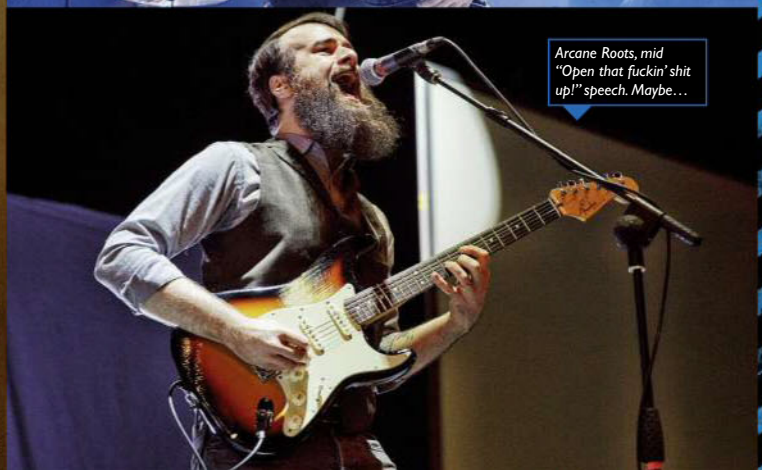
"I wish they had been here – they're really close friends of ours. They came up against challenges that meant they just couldn't continue the tour."

Zoltan failed to notice AC/DC's Brian Johnson lurking in the wings



Benji from Skindred decided he'd dress down a bit this evening

As Lions got ready for the mane attraction



Arcane Roots, mid "Open that fuckin' shit up!" speech. Maybe…

LIVES

SLAYER

PLUS: ANTHRAX, KVELERTAK

O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON, LONDON. 30.11.15

KKKK

CALIFORNIA THRASH KINGS KICK UP A STORM IN THE CAPITAL

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

FOR LOVERS of thrash metal's Big Four, Christmas has come early this year. Barely two weeks since Megadeth bid 12,000 people adieu over Wembley way with an excoriating run through Holy Wars… The Punishment Due, once again the UK finds itself the host to two more dons of din. Though from opposing sides of the U.S. – Slayer from California, Anthrax from New York – tonight's American contingent took the movement to different extremes. With their ventures into other musical territory through their collaboration with rappers Public Enemy, Anthrax expanded the frontiers of the genre, while with 1986's Reign In Blood, Slayer simply set the bar too high for anyone to ever thrash faster, harder or louder. Tonight, both elder-titans are as full of piss and vinegar playing these songs as they were back then.

It is in this spirit of innovation that Kvelertak fit themselves nicely onto tonight's bill. Hairy frontman Erlend Hjelvik aside, the Norwegians may not look like a traditional metal band, but then again the music they play – a wild brew of black metal, punk and rock'n'roll – has little time for the traditional. It launches the evening to perfect, nuclear effect, though.

As one quarter of the Big Four, Anthrax might feel aggrieved that their contribution to the cause has been somewhat overlooked. This is to their benefit in the present, however, as tonight almost 5,000 souls are reminded just how much Scott Ian and co have to offer. As Caught In A Mosh and I Am The Law thunder around the auditorium, Anthrax sound like men of absolute authority.

Speaking of authority, Slayer have it, are it and know how to use it. In fact, in the live arena the Los Angeles quartet defy logic by playing at a level of intensity that somehow surpasses their appearances back in a time when guitarist Kerry King had hair and frontman Tom Araya didn't look like Santa Claus. Yes, of course, this is music the heaviness of which is a given; but where Slayer truly excel in the 21st century is in the matter of precision. Plainly put, they often play their music better today than when they were younger men.

The songs, of course, are classics. South Of Heaven locks itself down with a murderous groove, and Angel Of Death remains as gloriously unpleasant as it was 29 years ago. Elsewhere, Raining Blood's still a masterpiece, while the 30-year-old Hell Awaits is a reminder that this group were the first band to ever play *this fast*. Somehow, new songs like opener Repentless and When The Stillness Comes manage to match their older counterparts' intensity.

So, then, almost two generations in, Slayer live remain on the sharpest cutting edge. They are, and always will be, the logical conclusion of metal's heart of darkness.

Kvelertak: kvely good

The Scott Ian action figure was really lifelike

The Incredible Hulk's hair was getting out of control lately

Caleb still hadn't quite mastered walking in his new jumbo-heels

STAR SHOUT!

CALEB SHOMO

(BEARTOOTH, VOCALS)

HOW WAS THAT, MAN?
"That was one of the craziest crowds I've ever played to! I would say that tonight was the best show we've played *ever* – my personal favourite. Hopefully they're only up from here!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO GET TO PLAY SOME OLD STUFF?
"It's great to play some old stuff, just because we rarely get to. It's cool for people who have been a fan of the band for a long time. Set Me On Fire was my favourite song to dig out, just because we literally haven't played that song in, I don't know, a year and a half. And that was the first Beartooth song I ever wrote."

BEARTOOTH

PLUS: '68, BLOOD YOUTH

ELECTRIC BALLROOM, LONDON. 24.11.15

KKKK

METALCORE MONSTERS MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF THEIR BIGGEST UK HEADLINE SHOW TO DATE

WORDS: TOM SHEPHERD **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

"I WANT to see utter chaos when this drops," yells a steely Caleb Shomo. Time, it seems, has momentarily stopped in the Electric Ballroom four-fifths of the way through a pummelling rendition of Dead. Both of Beartooth's guitarists lie spread-eagled, instruments in hand, on top of a crowd desperate to keep them afloat. "I don't want to hear anything but your voices," persists the juggernaut of a frontman from the stage. "I don't want guitars. I don't want to hear drums. Do you understand me?" And as the air fills with voices, we hit a level of intensity we've come to expect from the Ohio five-piece, but, at their biggest UK headline show to date, on a scale like never before.

While never at risk of upstaging the band with their name on the door, Lincolnshire's Blood Youth still open with a precociously confident account of themselves, delivering a sound that clearly spends its Sundays worshipping at the church of Glassjaw. Even more self-assured are Atlanta duo '68. With the fine-tuned precision of a riotous bar brawl, their captivating set hinges on frontman Josh Scogin's ability to play sluggish punk rock while seemingly undergoing a lackadaisical meltdown.

Yet still the madness of Beartooth conquers all. Choosing to walk on to no intro music, Caleb spends the opening refrains of his time with this crowd on his knees staring directly at them. It's a fine indication of the band's ability to create drama without gimmick. And it continues as the room gets buried under riff after riff – as the frontman's Jekyll-and-Hyde vocals retread psychodramas in songs such as Relapsing and I Have A Problem. The rare opportunity to play some older tracks gives us Set Me On Fire, the closest most here will come to experiencing an exorcism. It's a powerful, no-nonsense but entertaining set from a band whose trajectory shows no signs of dipping.

"Does anyone know where I could find a floating red dot?"

STAR SHOUT!

KERRY KING

(SLAYER, GUITAR)

HOW WAS THAT FOR YOU, SIR?
"Killer. We've been opening with Repentless and it's amazing how loud the crowd is singing that back to us already. We're just having a blast, man. The usual party crew is me, and Frank Bello, Jon Donais and Jon Dette from Anthrax. We have a great time, man."

WHAT SONG ALWAYS GETS THE MADDEST CROWD RESPONSE?
"It's hard to say. You'd think maybe Angel Of Death, but that's at the end of the show after everyone is Anthraxed, Kvelertaked and Slayered out!"

Funnily enough, with Kerry around, Slayer never found themselves short of a tow-rope

LIVES

Well, someone had a Sharpie and an hour to kill

NEW YEARS DAY

PLUS: THE DIRTY YOUTH THE RED PAINTINGS,

BARFLY, LONDON. 22.11.15

KKKK

NEW GRAVE STARS MAKE THEIR ALL-TOO-BRIEF UK HEADLINE DEBUT

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

"IT'S BEEN quite the week for us travelling around," New Years Day singer Ash Costello notes with some understatement. Much like a number of other bands, the Californian five-piece have been caught in the eye of the storm of late; their dates with Marilyn Manson and Motionless In White having been cancelled and postponed respectively after recent events. It's therefore commendable that they've kept this appointment at the Barfly, which just so happens to be their first headliner on UK soil, and Ash's ready to paint the town red and black.

First, though, there's alt.rockers The Red Paintings, who play as someone onstage actually paints, and whose frontman, Trash McSweeney, is dressed like an overflowing washing basket. In their heads, a cover of Tears For Fears' Mad World seems a necessary artistic statement on the precarious sociopolitical climate, but in practice it's a mawkish display of self-indulgence.

The Dirty Youth made good use of the world's smallest stool

The Red Paintings cleaned up at the jumble sale

Next up are The Dirty Youth. They might look completely at odds with one another, but in Danni Monroe they have a frontwoman to unite the disparate elements, even if tonight Hurricane barely musters a stiff breeze in response.

The lung power expelled by the crowd as Ash Costello steps onstage confirms the headliners won't suffer the same fate. And while you might have expected such a pivotal set to last more than 40 minutes, the pace of Kill Or Be Killed and Epidemic ensure not a second is wasted. Ash herself is a blur of black and red, Harley Quinn come to life, as she darts around like a devil. "I think I love you," she says in thanks. "If I had a *heart*, I would love you," she corrects. Actually, Ash shows an awful lot of heart tonight. It's just a shame we get an all-too-brief encounter with it.

STAR SHOUT!

ASH COSTELLO

(NEW YEARS DAY, VOCALS)

HOW WAS TONIGHT?

"A relief – it's been such a crazy, wild ride to get here. It's been quite the week, but the show was kinda wild!"

YOU'VE HAD TO POSTPONE YOUR TOUR WITH MOTIONLESS IN WHITE. IT MUST BE A CONFUSING TIME TO BE IN A BAND...

"In America, you see all the stuff about terror threats on the news and, not only that, if you're in a band, you've got all these friends in bands that are in Europe right now. Motionless In White know about four or five bands that are in Europe, including us, so that's a lot of people to be thinking about. Just knowing how we feel and our experiences, I think it's a scary thought for anyone to get on a plane and travel away from home. It wasn't even for us; it was for the safety of the fans. We thought: let's leave it for now and come back and do a tour at a time that's a little less stressful for everyone."

SEPULTURA

PLUS: EVILE, REIGN OF FURY

CLASSIC GRAND, GLASGOW. 18.11.15

KKK

BRAZILIAN METAL LEGENDS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS IN PREDICTABLY BONE-CRUNCHING STYLE

SEPULTURA'S FACES might've changed over the years the Cavalera brothers having swapped for hulking vocalist Derrick Green and sticksman Eloy Casagrande but, as tonight proves, their gigs have lost little of their visceral charm. Midlands bruisers Reign Of Fury kick things off with supreme metallic precision, but it's Huddersfield speed-freaks Evile who blast open the first pits of the night. On another occasion they'd leave this crowd all banged-out, but this is Sepultura's party and no-one's going home in one piece. Guitarist Andreas Kisser gouges at his instrument like a man possessed, while bassist Paolo Jr. brings the bounce as if he's got a sideline selling rubber balls. And the assault proves relentless. Arise bludgeons. Refuse/Resist is heavier than lead. Roots Bloody Roots... well, you can probably guess. Their name might be Portuguese for "grave", but Sepultura are still alive and kicking ass.

SAM LAW

IHSAHN

PLUS: KROKODIL

UNDERWORLD, LONDON. 14.11.15

KKKK

NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL LEGEND USHERS IN WINTER WITH A TOUCH OF PROG

IT'S A drizzly black night in Camden, the kind that soaks through to put an icy chill in your bones. As the Starks of Winterfell would agree, winter is indeed coming. So, there's something timely about Ihsahn's set of black metal symphonies that capture the terrifying majesty of frozen Norwegian landscapes. First, though, homegrown metallers Krokodil warm up the crowd with a frenzied triple axe attack while Simon Wright roars into his microphone like he skipped dinner and fancied a mic sandwich. By comparison, Ihsahn opens quietly, with gently droning guitars, subtle drums and flickering electronics. But, just as a snowball rolling down a mountain can cause an avalanche, these elements build into crushing metal epics that engulf the room. The Paranoid's guttural chanting and searing solos cut like Arctic winds, while a lurching medley of tunes from Ihsahn's "old boy band" Emperor gets heads banging. And though furiously riffy new album teaser My Heart Is Of The North leaves us itching for its 2016 release,

Ihsahn remains the only man who can fit an entire glacier inside a London basement. Truly, he is a rare talent.

JAMES MACKINNON

ROLO TOMASSI

PLUS: JOHN COFFEY

OSLO, LONDON. 13.11.15

KKKKK

THE SHEFFIELD NOISENIKS BRING A DOSE OF SUPREME INTENSITY TO THE CAPITAL

POP QUIZ: what do John Coffey and Rolo Tomassi have in common, aside from turning in exceptional performances this evening? Answer: both are named after unfathomable characters in films. John Coffey is the name of the mysterious and mountainous man with healing powers falsely accused of murder in tearjerker The Green Mile. His musical namesakes aren't quite so mysterious, due to their own second-coming-of-Every-Time-I-Die sound, although the likes of Oh, Oh, Calamity prove mountainous for the very same reason. Meanwhile, Rolo Tomassi is the moniker attached to the unknown man who guns down Guy Pearce's character's father in L.A. Confidential. The Sheffield quintet have themselves become shorthand for mind-bending technicality and glacial beauty – a reputation they ably fortify tonight. Songs like Ex Luna Scientia and Opalescent are incredible, the latter of which is given added significance because its was filmed at this very venue, and then there's the sheer feral intensity of their playing, that finds singer Eva Spence noting that guitarist Chris Cayford has set some kind of record, having "broken two strings in two songs". It's incredible, and Rolo Tomassi continue to push more envelope than a forceful postman. The results, once again, are first class.

JAMES HICKIE

DEAF HAVANA

PLUS: THE XCERTS

THE WARDROBE, LEEDS. 19.11.15

KKKK

THE UK'S LOVELIEST, GRUMPIEST BAND RETURN WITH – GASP! – A SMILE!

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTO:** ANDY GALLAGHER

IF JAMES Veck-Gilodi had a glass, you suspect he wouldn't view it as half-full, or even half-empty. The Deaf Havana singer would probably assume someone had nicked the other half. That's part of why we love him, of course – that and the fact that he can pack all that ennui into songs as magnificent as tonight's opener, The Past Six Years. But even he can't help but smile as the crowd surges forward and volleys every single woe-packed word he sings right back into his face.

If any band have earned the right to look world-weary it's openers The Xcerts. They've been plugging away for years without getting the recognition they deserve, but still deliver their own emotionally charged anthems with a grin.

It's been a while since Deaf Havana have done a proper tour and, packed into an intimate place like this, they sound immense. There are old favourites (Youth In Retrospect, Little White Lies), and there are new songs (the skyscraping arena rock of Cassiopeia). Mostly tonight is made up of close-to-poetic musings stuffed into huge sing-along anthems. James might sound like he can't quite believe the reaction, but Deaf Havana are still the best thing we've found in a Wardrobe since Aslan.

James spent the time off working on his Craig Mabbitt face

STAR SHOUT!

JAMES VECK-GILODI

(DEAF HAVANA, VOCALS/GUITAR)

TELL THE TRUTH – DID YOU BOOK AN 'INTIMATE' TOUR IN CASE NOBODY TURNED UP?

"Ha, well that is always in the back of your mind. It's been a while since we've toured the UK and you do get those thoughts of, 'Will anyone still care?' But in the end the shows have sold out! It was bloody hot, but I had a great time."

THE NEW STUFF SOUNDED GOOD. HOW'S THE ALBUM?

"It's going really well. It's been a while since the last one, and we've been taking our time. It was good to be able to play something new tonight."

LIGHT YOU UP

PLUS: WSTR, BEAUMONT

BARFLY, LONDON. 15.11.15

KKKK

BIRMINGHAM POST POP-PUNK HOPEFULS IGNITE THE TOUCH PAPER

WORDS: TOM SHEPHERD **PHOTOS:** ANDREW TIMMS

'THIS IS All We've Ever Known' declares Light You Up's merch. It's a statement that has significance beyond namechecking their debut album of the same name. You see, four years ago they played a support slot here, under the name LYU. After that show, they met prospective singer Tom Napier, hit it off and became Light You Up – fuller of name and more saccharine of sound. And tonight, the site of their rebirth is now the site of their christening as a proposition to get excited about.

Up first, though, are Beaumont, who aren't helped by the fact they're a bag of nerves. WSTR's pop-punk party, meanwhile, is a laugh, even when they resort to pilfering the pockets of Limp Bizkit (covering Break Stuff) and Slipknot (getting the crowd to get down on the ground). Such things never hurt The Blackout, mind.

Would Fred Durst or Corey Taylor arrive onstage sipping from a Sports Direct mug, though? Light You Up frontman Tom Napier does, and despite labelling himself "the most un-rock'n'roll man in rock'n'roll", there's no denying the wattage of his charisma – even in the face of obstacles. During You Are Waiting For A Train, for example, he snaps a string on his acoustic guitar, knocking it wildly out of tune. Others might choke; he simply laughs it off and summons the crowd to drown out the bum notes. "You guys held that shit together," he laughs. That's okay; he and his bandmates can pay this crowd back at the bigger venues you suspect Light You Up will come to know in future.

Tom Napier made a valiant attempt to hug the entire venue

The man who burgled Fred Durst's flat was quickly caught

STAR SHOUT!

TOM NAPIER

(LIGHT YOU UP, VOCALS)

WHAT'S WITH THE SPORTS DIRECT MUG, MATE?

"Ha! I blew out my voice at our Birmingham show because it was so bassy that I couldn't hear myself at all, so I strained a bit too much. I really did have lemon, ginger and honey in there."

YOU ALSO HAD A STRING BREAK ONSTAGE AND GOT SOME HELP FROM THE FANS...

"That was great! Anyone that enjoys what we do means the world to me. I have a really nice rapport with the fans, so I don't get nervous onstage."

REVIEWS

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

BARONESS

PURPLE *(ABRAXAN HYMNS)*

KKKKK

SAVANNAH PROG METALLERS BRING THEMSELVES BACK FROM THE BRINK WITH AN ABSOLUTE BELTER

IN 2012, following the release of their 5K-rated Yellow & Green double album, Baroness looked certain to follow in the footsteps of fellow Georgians Mastodon and make the transition from an underground cult band to something much bigger. Tragically, though, while touring the UK, the brakes on their tourbus failed and the vehicle plunged 30 feet from a viaduct. Miraculously, no-one was killed, but both band and crew suffered horrendous injuries – frontman John Baizley would later post a graphic description of the accident along with a picture of his slowly healing and heavily-stapled left arm.

It could easily have spelled the end of Baroness. Two members (drummer Allen Blickle and bassist Matt Maggioni) did leave the fold, but the band continued to recuperate and regenerate, and, with a revised line-up, they've finally emerged blinking into the light at the end of the tunnel.

Purple does reflect on the difficulties of the past three years, lyrically at least. Frankly, it would have been weird if it hadn't. '*When I called on my nursemaid, come sit by my side / But she cuts through my ribcage / And pushes the pills deep in my eyes*', John rasps on first single Chlorine & Wine. There are dark poetic strokes throughout, but this is not an album that wallows in self-pity or bristles with impotent rage. There's a sense of optimism shining through the cracks and, musically, it's the most resolutely upbeat album they've yet put their name to.

Where their early releases spat and snarled with fuzzed-out metal aggression, Yellow & Green was a sprawling kaleidoscope of styles and influences, ranging from hazy psychedelia and lilting folk to pure rock sluggers. Purple is a far more condensed and direct proposition. The aforementioned Chlorine & Wine gives a passing nod to Pink Floyd ('*I'd never felt so uncomfortably dumb*', they sing with a wink), instrumental Fugue is a mellow prog diversion, while the likes of the riff-fuelled Morningstar and Try To Disappear boast stadium-sized hooks that wouldn't shame a Foo Fighters set.

Purple is the colour of bruising, and few bands have come through more of a buffeting. This, though, is a positive and uplifting album, and one that marks the most hard-fought comeback of the year.

DOWNLOAD: Morningstar, Chlorine & Wine.
FOR FANS OF: Kylesa, Mastodon.
PAUL TRAVERS

"MUSIC CAME TO DEFINE OUR RECOVERY..."

JOHN BAIZLEY

THE INSIDER
JOHN BAIZLEY
(VOCALS/GUITAR)

WAS THERE EVER A POINT WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT CARRY ON?
"Not really. It became apparent very quickly that there would be some time for recovery necessary, and that was understandable. But I was playing music again almost immediately, and the band and the music came to define our recovery. We'd judge how we were doing by when we started writing songs again and when we were able to get back out on the road. Playing in this band became a recuperative thing."

HOW MUCH DID THE ACCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH INFLUENCE THIS ALBUM?
"Quite a lot, in that each record we make reflects the time period in which it was written. Our music and lyrics are always based on real experiences and the way we contend with whatever life throws at us. In that sense, this record is indebted to that whole period, but I don't feel it's entrenched and weighed down by it. If the record's about anything, it's about going through something and coming out the other side."

HOW DID THE ENFORCED LINE-UP CHANGE AFFECT THE BAND'S DYNAMIC?
"It was a largely positive change, because it gave us the opportunity to grow. As much as you try to push yourself and do different things with your own music, you do fall into set ways of doing things. You don't always get a big enough reason to push yourself forward. With this change, we had no opportunity to fall into a routine. We had no choice but to develop in a new way."

ONE OK ROCK

35XXXV *(WARNER BROS)*

KKKK

JAPANESE MOB ANNOUNCE THEIR UK ARRIVAL WITH KELLIN QUINN'S HELP

WHAT'S THE formula for the perfect catchy rock record? Enlisting guest vocals from two of the genre's best-loved croonsters say, Sleeping With Sirens' Kellin Quinn and Issues' Tyler Carter to lend their pipes to a couple of songs is a good start. Then, maybe throw in a guy with a bajillion rock hits to his name (like John Feldmann) to twiddle the knobs, and you've got yourself an album. Japan's ONE OK ROCK's seventh record kicks off with early promise the fiery Suddenly and Mighty Long Fall, for example and despite occasionally finding itself on a pop-punk cul-de-sac, this'll do nicely. The formula could do with some freshening up, but ONE OK ROCK rock, OK.

DOWNLOAD: Suddenly.
FOR FANS OF: Pierce The Veil, Sleeping With Sirens.
TOM SHEPHERD

TODAY, THEY ARE OLDER

TODAY, THEY ARE OLDER *(SUNBIRD)*

KKK

NORTHERN RIFFERS EXPOSE THEMSELVES ON BLISTERING EP

SOME THINGS mellow with age. Fortunately, Lancashire quintet Today, They Are Older aren't among them. Louder, heavier and more angular, here they manage escalation on all fronts with this truncated third release. Honest and unconstrained, the five tracks on offer meld two parts raw aggression to one of expansive experimentalism. Opener Empty Eyes arrives with all the subtlety of a fist to the gut, while grandstanding centrepiece From Finland With Love chucks in cathartic fury, snarling riffage and delicate female vocals. Regardless, it's closer No Guts, No Glory dropping like a granite slab before spiralling into ambient brilliance that most aptly showcases the furiously dynamic intelligence at play.

DOWNLOAD: Empty Eyes, From Finland With Love.
FOR FANS OF: Underoath, Heights, Architects.
SAM LAW

LITHIUM DAWN

TEARING BACK THE VEIL I: ASCENSION *(SELF-RELEASE)*

KKK

PATIENCE-CHALLENGING MARATHON, FOR PROG METAL DEVOTEES ONLY

IF YOU'VE ever read Tolkien's The Hobbit, you might well wonder why director Peter Jackson elongated a superbly succinct yarn into three mammoth movies. A similar thing happens here – whatever story LA quartet Lithium Dawn are trying to tell, it's virtually lost amid a series of unbelievably drawn-out, moody soundscapes. Crucially, nothing they do is bad – these are musicians of unquestionable talent who have immersed themselves so deeply in their art that most listeners will find themselves lost. Synchronicity is one of the few tracks to reveal its beauty in an accessible manner. For the rest of it, your ears – and patience – will need training.

DOWNLOAD: Synchronicity.
FOR FANS OF: Opeth, TesseracT.
STEVE BEEBEE

MAMMOTH WEED WIZARD BASTARD

NOETH AC ANOETH *(NEW HEAVY SOUNDS)*

KKKK

GRANDIOSE, COSMIC DOOM FROM RIDICULOUSLY NAMED UK SLUGGERS

MWWB AREN'T the comedy act you'd expect from their moniker, seemingly chosen by a doom band name-generator. This was obvious when they released Nachthexen, a half-hour odyssey of immersive, cosmic heaviness, as a limited-edition tape earlier this year. With this epic work reappearing alongside two 10-minute pieces for the band's vinyl and CD debut, it's now even clearer that this Welsh quartet are rather special. The juxtaposition between tectonic riffage and ethereal vocals from bassist Jessica Ball might be attention-grabbing, but, in truth, the band's hypnotic spaciness and organic musical progressions are their greatest strengths. Against the odds, theirs is a name you might want to remember.

DOWNLOAD: Nachthexen.
FOR FANS OF: Windhand, Sleep.
OLLY THOMAS

K!LOBBER

XMAS KLOBBER

SAY A BIG OL' HOLIDAY PRAYER FOR SANTA CLAUS! HIS BACK'S GOING TO NEED A MIRACLE TO CARRY THIS LOT…

Famous last words: "How cool are these Gerard Way figures? I think I'm only going to buy one of them, though. It's not exactly like I need to own them all!"
From £9.95 Funko.com

You don't need that dalmatian fur coat. Not now you've got these Vans. Guaranteed 100 per cent dog-free!
£60 Vans.co.uk

IT'S A MOTÖRHEAD STOCKING! Frankly, we don't care that there's no presents in it. Much…
£15 Motorhead.com

Issues may have made the most ghastly hat ever here. But it's *so* nasty, it's actually quite cool.
$25 (£16.55) Merchnow.com

Aliens: big of teeth, acidy of blood, surprisingly domesticated. All revealed in this tell-all book.
£9.98 Amazon.co.uk

Game historians will remember that Game Boys came with a copy of Tetris. We thought this bag would, too, but the pieces must have formed lines and disappeared already, never to be seen again.
£32.99 EMP-online.co.uk

A comic based on the adventures of American alt.rockers Lemuria! Take that, Archie!
$15 (£9.93) Lemuriapop.com

Metallica's Kirk Hammett has turned one of his horror-themed guitars into a shirt. It's horrifying.
$42.50 (£28.13) Tinmanmerchandising.com

What does Gene Simmons wear to lounge around his massive house? Demon boot slippers. Duh.
$185 (£122.48) Ebay.com

Careful: we waited a full 45 minutes on the doorstep for this mat to rap on the door. We ended up ringing the bell ourselves. Maybe we got a broken one.
£16.99 Fruugo.co.uk

What's that skateboard-looking thing under the Kerristmas tree? Only an Avenged deck. Haaaail to the kick-flip!
$59.99 (£ 39.71) Rockmerchuniverse.com

Yes, Santa knows who Gojira are. Lucky for you, as they've just released these beautiful vinyl reissues.
€25.90 (£18.67) Shop-listenable.net

Nowt says balls-out metal like Anthrax. And nowt says balls-out metal Kerristmas like Anthrax baubles.
$8 (£5.30) Shop.anthrax.com

Does granny's tree need a bit of pep? Try these – they're a scream.
$22.12 (£14.64) Hottopic.com

Look, we know The Force Awakens isn't out yet. We don't care. We've already decided to make BB-8 our man of the year. Droid of the year. Ball thing.
£129.95 Disneystore.co.uk

Liven up your evening wear with Kurt and Courtney cufflinks. The cover of GQ surely awaits.
$17 (£11.25) Sadtruthsupply.com

Basket case? We recommend a pillow case. A Green Day pillow case, appropriately enough.
£4.95 Fabfurnish.com

There is nothing more festive than swearing. Oh no, there is: swearing on a magnet!
£3.31 Rock.com

Everyone needs a warm head – even Voldemort's foot soldiers. Problem solved, right here.
$18.36 (£12.15) Harrypottershop.com

If you're thinking of recreating art masterpiece American Gothic with a Drop Dead twist, have we got the outfit for you…
£40 Dropdead.co

Marvel's new hit, Jessica Jones, rocks, and this T-shirt is all you ne…**Resumes watching Jessica Jones**
£14 Cafepress.co.uk

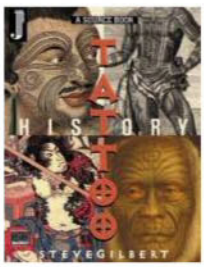
This ultra-colourful shirt is bonkers. Unless you've seen The Regular Show. Then it's insanity where you sort of understand what's going on.
$31.41 (£20.79) Cartoonnetworkshop.com

K!LOBBER

And there we were wondering how we could look like a minion *and* a Germanic opera diva with one simple hat. Phew!
£12.99 EMP-online.co.uk

Question: do you think Wookiee's spend Kerrismas lounging around in human onesies? Just a thought.
£ 49.99 EMP-online.co.uk

For the supervillain lover in your life, why not go all-out this Kerrismas and get them this Suicide Squad box set. You don't get your own green-haired Jared Leto, though. That's coming in next year's kit.
£39.99 Bay-57.net



The history of tattoos. Clue: it doesn't start by picking one off the wall for a fiver on a Friday night.
$29.99 (£19.83) Amazon.com

We wouldn't drink from a flask with a skull on it. It probably still tastes better than your auntie's eggnog, mind…
£10 Dropdead.co

Made-up fact: ancient Yule logs were homes to deathbats, who brought music to all who saw them. These are just baubles, though.
£19.99 EMP-online.co.uk

Why get a pair of pants when you could get five whole albums of Pantera goodness? It's the guaranteed perfect soundtrack to the '*ARE YOU TALKING TO MEEEEE?*' moment when you fall out with all your relatives over the Kerrismas meal.
CD – $32.47 (£21.46)
Vinyl – $99.98 (£66.08)
Pantera.com

You cannot play like Jimi Hendrix. No, you can't. But you can look the part with his new signature axe. You'll still suck at the guitar, but you'll look the nuts.
£661 Andertons.co.uk

There's nothing more suited for hiding our corn-infested feet than these Nothing More Kerrismas socks. Lovely.
$14.99 (£9.93) Nothingmore.net

"What time is it?" you ask. TIME TO ROCK! A joke that will never get old and wearisome. Ever. Hahaha. Etc.
£14.99 EMP-online.co.uk

We feel ethically obliged to warn you about the dangers of the dark side of the Force. Then again… Kylo Ren's lightsaber is the best. Team Palpatine, yo.
£12.47 Asda.com

Create your own exciting version of the Batman v Superman film by pitting them against one another in model form. Or use them as paperweights. Either will look boss.
£129.99 (Each) Forbiddenplanet.com

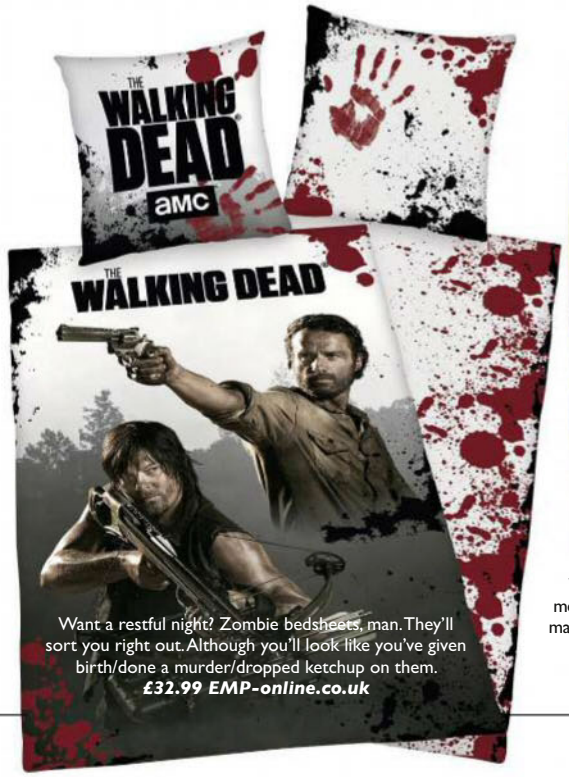
Ouija boards and socks, together at last! At the time of writing, we have no idea whether ghosts mind smelly feet. Updates as we get them.
$7 (£4.64) Hottopic.com

This is either a Mastodon Kerristmas stocking or a proportionally unsound Kerristmas boomerang. Either way, we want it.
£15 Mastodon.backstreetmerch.com

For the PVRIS fan that has everything, we have White Noise on lovely, heavy vinyl. It's black and white, too, for extra coolness.
$16.50 (£10.93) Thisispvris.com

You wouldn't think Placebo would go well with turkey. And you'd be right. But they're *almost* dinner music on this new unplugged DVD.
£12.99 Store.universalmusic.com

You know what you're in for with 'Ass Reaper' and 'Psycho Slayer' hot sauce. Yes, you'll crap unholy fireballs, but it's still more appealing than brussels sprouts, innit?
£7.95 Hotsauceemporium.co.uk



Want a restful night? Zombie bedsheets, man. They'll sort you right out. Although you'll look like you've given birth/done a murder/dropped ketchup on them.
£32.99 EMP-online.co.uk

What you really want, in order to be the most metal bastard on the half-pipe, is a board seemingly made from a cathedral door. With Metallica's Master Of Puppets art on it, naturally.
$199.99 (£132.47) Metallica.com

DON'T MISS

QUEEN KWONG

WANT TO GET CLIMBED ON AND HAVE THE FRONTLADY OF THE BAND YOU'RE WATCHING STEAL YOUR DRINK? THEN GO SEE THESE HELL-RAISERS…

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM A QUEEN KWONG SHOW?

WES BORLAND (*GUITAR*): "We've had shows where people are sort of stunned and don't know what's happening! That's usually when it provokes [frontlady] Carré to go out and start climbing on people. She's literally climbed up someone onto the top of their head before – I think she just sights people who don't know what's going on, and are kind of bewildered, and then *attacks* them. If you're not getting into it, she's gonna come after you! I've seen her rip a person's shirt completely off of their body. She's gone out into the crowd to take people's drinks from their hands and start drinking them, and everyone just seems to go along with it! It's like, 'Okay! We'll do whatever you want! Don't kill us!'"

CARRÉ CALLAWAY (*VOCALS*): "Is that a common occurrence? Um… yeah (*laughs*)! I just don't get why anyone goes to a rock show – or to see any kind of entertainment – to sit there and text. It's like, I'd rather you just leave."

WHAT'S THE VIBE GENERALLY LIKE IN THE QUEEN KWONG VAN?

WES: "It's great. Touring in a van is my favourite way to tour. Thing is, I did everything in life backwards as far as touring goes. I *started* on a bus, and I ended up in vans. I still do buses now with Limp Bizkit, but I had never done vans until I started getting into other projects and then realised how much fun that is! I love driving, and so I end up driving most of the time."

CARRÉ: "I have this thing where I just cannot stay awake in a moving vehicle! I'm, like, passed out the entire time – so I need everyone to be quiet anyway (*laughs*)!"

> ***"YOU'RE EITHER WITH ME OR AGAINST ME!"***
> **CARRÉ CALLAWAY**

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST VENUE YOU'VE PLAYED IN WITH QUEEN KWONG SO FAR?

CARRÉ: "It was before the guys were in the band, and I had a weekly residence at this bar. There was a huge baseball game on, and I was playing and *everybody* was watching the game and cheering and being loud and drunk *while* I was playing. I didn't want to play any more, but the manager was like, 'No, you still have to play (*laughs*)!' That was definitely a really weird, miserable experience."

WES: "The strangest place we played was due to the circumstances, which was opening for Limp Bizkit at Brixton Academy. I played four shows in about 24 hours! I had been looking forward to the challenge, though, because I played two sets at Brixton Academy, then drove directly to Leeds, played with Queen Kwong there, then had a car waiting to drive me to Reading to play with Bizkit. No-one knew if I was going to make it!"

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR QK IN 2016?

WES: "There's going to be a new Queen Kwong record in the works immediately, and Carré's going to start working on that in Los Angeles and in the studio we just built in Detroit. I'll definitely be doing some Bizkit stuff in the summer, and I know that Fred is *finally* finishing the album. For both bands it's going to be incredibly busy."

CARRÉ: "I'm excited to have new material, but I'm also really proud of this record [Get A Witness], and I wanted it to be polarising, you're with me or against me, and if you don't like it, fuck off!"

DATES: London Camden Barfly December 11, Bristol Louisiana 12, Cardiff Globe 13, York Duchess 15, Glasgow Stereo 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Southampton Joiners 18, Brighton Green Door Store 19.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** GETTY

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY DECEMBER 9

BIRMINGHAM Black Tongue, Oceans Ate Alaska, Monolith (Rainbow)
BIRMINGHAM Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Rainbow Warehouse)
CARDIFF Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, Trash Boat, Boston Manor (Globe)
GLASGOW Stereophonics (SSE Hydro)
LEEDS The Darkness (O2 Academy Leeds)
MANCHESTER The Story So Far, Turnstile, Drug Church (Academy 2)
MANCHESTER Fear Factory, Once Human (O2 Ritz Manchester)
NEWCASTLE Def Leppard, Whitesnake (Metro Radio Arena)
NOTTINGHAM Don Broco, Coasts, Arcane Roots, Symmetry (Rock City)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10

BRISTOL SikTh, Hacktivist, Destrage (Marble Factory)
DUBLIN Fear Factory, Once Human (Academy)
GLASGOW The Story So Far, Turnstile, Drug Church (Garage)
GLASGOW Def Leppard, Whitesnake (SSE Hydro)
LONDON ONE OK ROCK, We Came As Romans, Dead! (O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire)
MANCHESTER The Darkness (Academy)
MANCHESTER Clutch, Bombus (O2 Ritz Manchester)
MANCHESTER Mariachi El Bronx (Ruby Lounge)
MANCHESTER Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Sound Control)
MANCHESTER Black Tongue, Oceans Ate Alaska, Monolith (Star & Garter)
NOTTINGHAM Orange Goblin, Gentlemans Pistols (Rescue Rooms)
NOTTINGHAM Lower Than Atlantis , Moose Blood, As It Is, Brawlers (Rock City)
YORK Hey! Hello! (Fibbers)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11

BELFAST Fear Factory, Once Human (Limelight)
BIRMINGHAM Stereophonics (Genting Arena)
BIRMINGHAM The Darkness (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM SikTh, Hacktivist, Destrage (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM Tremonti, The Raven Age (O2 Institute Birmingham)
BRISTOL Lower Than Atlantis, Moose Blood, As It Is, Brawlers (Academy)
DUBLIN Therapy?, Black Spiders (Button Factory)
GLASGOW Black Tongue, Oceans Ate Alaska, Monolith (Attic)
LEEDS Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Key Club)
LONDON Queen Kwong (Barfly, Camden)
LONDON Black Star Riders (O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire)
MANCHESTER Don Broco, Coasts, Arcane Roots, Symmetry (O2 Ritz Manchester)
MANCHESTER The Bronx (Ruby Lounge)
NEWCASTLE The Story So Far, Turnstile, Drug Church (Riverside)
STOCKTON Hey! Hello! (Georgian Theatre)
STOKE Orange Goblin, Gentlemans Pistols (Sugarmill)
WOLVERHAMPTON Clutch, Bombus (Wulfrun Hall)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12

BELFAST Therapy?, Black Spiders (Limelight)
BIRMINGHAM Def Leppard, Whitesnake (Genting Arena)
BIRMINGHAM Lower Than Atlantis, Moose Blood, As It Is, Black Foxxes (O2 Institute Birmingham)
BOURNEMOUTH Stereophonics (Motorpoint Arena)
BRISTOL Queen Kwong (Louisiana)
EDINBURGH Tremonti, The Raven Age (Liquid Rooms)
GLASGOW Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Audio)
GLASGOW Fear Factory, Once Human (Garage)
LEEDS Ghost, Dead Soul (Beckett University)
LEEDS Orange Goblin, Gentlemans Pistols (Key Club)
LEEDS The Story So Far, Turnstile, Drug Church (Stylus)
LONDON SikTh, Hacktivist, Destrage (O2 Forum, Kentish Town)
LONDON Clutch, Bombus (O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire)
LONDON Mariachi El Bronx (Brooklyn Bowl)
SHEFFIELD Hey! Hello! (Corporation)
WOLVERHAMPTON Don Broco, Coasts, Arcane Roots, Symmetry (Wulfrun Hall)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

BOURNEMOUTH Stereophonics (Motorpoint Arena)
BRISTOL The Darkness (O2 Academy Bristol)
CARDIFF Queen Kwong (Globe)
EDINBURGH Hey! Hello! (Electric Circus)
LONDON Don Broco, Coasts, Arcane Roots, Symmetry (O2 Academy Brixton)
LONDON The Bronx, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes (Brooklyn Bowl)
LONDON Fear Factory, Once Human (O2 Forum, Kentish Town)
MANCHESTER Tremonti, The Raven Age (O2 Ritz Manchester)
NEWCASTLE Orange Goblin, Gentlemans Pistols (O2 Academy2 Newcastle)
NOTTINGHAM Def Leppard, Whitesnake (Capital FM Arena)
SHEFFIELD Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Local Authority)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: DON BROCO

Trust the Bedford boys to stick a cheeky innuendo in their tour rider… halfway down, if you're too much of a lad to read

don broco

60 x bottles of still water
8 x Lucozade Sport bottles with squeeze caps
24 x bottles of Corona
12 x bottles of Coors Light
3 x 1 litre cartons of fruit juice
1 x large bottle of vodka
12 x cheap energy drinks
1 x litre of milk
1 x litre of Sprite
1 x litre of Coca-Cola
1 x litre bottle of Ribena
1 x small bottle of Jameson
6 limes
1 stick of fresh ginger
2 lemons
Apples, raspberries, strawberries
Mixed bag of nuts
Fresh mint
2 x loaves of grain bread
1 x large bag of mixed salad
2 x packs of sliced cheese
2 x packs of Real Good Pig (ham)
1 x small pot of green basil pesto
6 x large packs of cooked chicken (no value range here – we like our birds to roam free)
2 x avocados
10 x large oranges
1 x bag of carrots
1 x pack of cherry tomatoes
1 x orange-coloured pepper
8 x pots of yoghurt (e.g. Müller Corner / Fruit Corner)
1 x Large pot of flavoured hummus
1 x pack of wholemeal pita bread
12 x cereal bars
1 x sharp knife (please don't go out and buy one… get creative and find one)

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

WRECK THE HALLS: BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

KERRANG TV – DECEMBER 9, 2PM

Get ready for a trip to B&Q, 'cause your hallway is about to get wrecked, by Bullet For My Valentine. Matt Tuck's a nice chap, so ask nicely and he might help you do the wallpapering.

LINKIN PARK FT. MARK HOPPUS, RELIEF LIVE – NUMB

YOUTUBE

Ever wondered what life would have been like had Mark Hoppus formed Linkin Park instead of blink-182? Well, wonder no more, thanks to this video of him playing with Chester and co at a charity show last month. Nu-metal's never been so bouncy.

P3 CHRISTINE LIVE: PVRIS, FIRE

YOUTUBE

It's a whole four months 'til PVRIS come back to the UK, and a whole God-knows-how-long 'til they put out some new music to haunt our ear holes. Fill the ghost-shaped void with this acoustic version of Fire, and watch it as many times as you need to. We won't judge…

MONDAY DECEMBER 14

LIVERPOOL Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (District)
LONDON Lower Than Atlantis , Moose Blood, As It Is, Black Foxxes (Roundhouse, Camden)
NOTTINGHAM Ghost, Dead Soul (Rock City)
SOUTHAMPTON The Darkness (O2 Guildhall Southampton)
STOKE Hey! Hello! (Sugarmill)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

BEXHILL The Darkness (De La Warr Pavilion)
BIRMINGHAM Ghost, Dead Soul (O2 Institute Birmingham)
BRIGHTON Stereophonics (Centre)
BRISTOL Tremonti, The Raven Age (O2 Academy Bristol)
GLASGOW Orange Goblin, Gentlemans Pistols (King Tut's)
MANCHESTER Def Leppard, Whitesnake (Arena)
MANCHESTER Lower Than Atlantis, Moose Blood, As It Is (O2 Ritz Manchester)
NOTTINGHAM Gnarwolves, Spraynard, Such Gold (Bodega)
YORK Queen Kwong (Duchess)

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: KORN / TRUST COMPANY, LONDON, DOCKLANDS ARENA, 2002

BEFORE THE DAYS OF NEW GRAVE, THE ASHESTOANGELS FRONTMAN ONLY HAD EYES FOR NU-METAL…

CRILLY, ASHESTOANGELS

"It wasn't long after Korn had brought out Untouchables, and I was a classic nu-metaller – I had the Korn hoodie, the Slipknot hoodie, all of it, and I went to the show with a girl who soon after became my girlfriend.

"When I looked around, everyone was like me – a bit younger, not horribly jaded about anything, and we loved that Korn songs were, at heart, pop songs with massive down-tuned guitars! There was a sense of community, and I think there still is one amongst Korn and Slipknot fans, and you just felt that the people around you were really nice. Anyone who fell in the mosh-pit got picked up really quickly.

"Openers Trust Company were really good, actually, and them playing was the first time in my life I felt a bass guitar shake my lungs!

"Korn kicked their set off with Here To Stay, and when that massive riff came in it was just so awesome! The best moment was Got The Life, which was an encore – the pit got so big, security had to come in and stop it! Jonathan Davis was such a larger-than-life character, too. At that point he was connected to such a massive network of people, with the Family Values tour and everything. No-one was too cool to jump when Blind kicked in, and he told us to damn well jump!

"By the time I walked away, I was wet, sweaty and probably still quite hyper. I wouldn't say I looked at it and knew that was what I wanted to, because it was on such a big scale and I'd never seen anything like it, but it definitely fired my hunger for more."

GENERAL ADMISSION

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

STAMFORD

THE HOME OF PICTURESQUE RIVERS AND ACOUSTIC ROCK...

ROB LYNCH (VOCALIST/GUITARIST)

WHAT WAS THE LOCAL SCENE LIKE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

"I got into playing music when I was 18, and didn't play my first gig until I was 19 – which is quite late considering a bunch of my friends had been playing in bands throughout their school years. There weren't a great deal of dedicated music venues, so bands would play at nightclubs, pubs and village halls, or wherever a PA would fit. It was seeing friends' bands play these places that inspired me to get involved."

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT THE LOCAL SCENE NOW?

"The hub of live music in **Stamford** is a venue called **Mama Liz's Bar**. Upstairs, it's a restaurant and bar, and downstairs there's a really great 150-cap venue. You can go there and see any kind of band you want – from punk to thrash metal to a Romanian three-piece triangle-playing folk band. Whenever I play a hometown show, this is where I go."

WHERE DID YOU PLAY YOUR FIRST SHOW IN STAMFORD?

"At **Quayhole Kate's** nightclub! I got kicked out of it on my 18th birthday, but luckily they let me come back with guitar in-hand. I played there many times after, one of which was with a band that then became **Lonely The Brave** back in 2007. The **Corn Exchange** used to put on rock shows, with the likes of **Skindred** and **Jesse James** coming through town, but now they've put seats in there and you'd be more likely to see a **Queen** tribute act. During the summer, in **Burghley House**, we have big outdoor gigs – this summer, **Status Quo** played. I remember going to see **Elton John** there when I was about 14 with my parents, as they got given free tickets!"

WHAT OTHER PLACES SHOULD NEW BANDS BE FREQUENTING?

"**Stamford Music Shop** is the only music shop in the town. It's a very traditional kind of place, great for picking up anything from strings to songbooks from knowledgeable staff. There used to be an independent record shop in the town called **Pendulum Records**, but that closed. I still remember going there aged 14 to buy the self-titled Slipknot album – it was an important day in my music listening history."

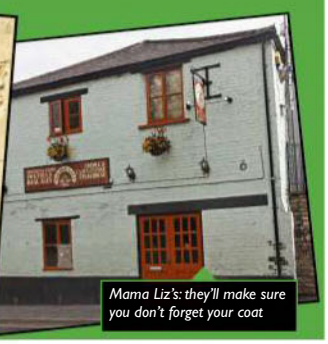
ARE THERE ANY LOCAL RADIO STATIONS OR FANZINES THAT HELP OUT NEW BANDS?

"**Rutland Radio** is the local radio station, and it's very supportive of local music, no matter the genre. There aren't any fanzines as such, but **The Rutland and Stamford Mercury** [*Britain's oldest continuously-published newspaper title – K! Fact Ed*] were always very kind to me in printing articles about upcoming shows, and putting photos in to make my mum proud."

ARE THERE ANY BANDS FROM THE LOCAL AREA YOU CAN RECOMMEND TO US?

"My favourite band from the area are called **The Candle Thieves** – they play **Eels**-esque intelligent pop music. The singer, **Scott McEwan**, used to front a pop-punk band called **Caffeine**. There's a band called **Lacey** who play excellent pop-rock; **Josh Lewin**, the guitarist, put on my first-ever gig, so I will always have him to thank for that. They're heading out on tour with **Bowling For Soup** next year."

For all your drum kit and Butterbeer needs



Mama Liz's: they'll make sure you don't forget your coat

BOOKING NOW

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Sheffield Arena April 5, 2016, London O2 Arena 7 – 8, Leeds First Direct Arena 11, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 18, Glasgow SSE Hydro 19 – 20, Manchester Arena 22 – 23, Belfast SSE Arena 25, Dublin 3Arena 26 – 27.

AIDEN
Manchester Sound Control January 16, 2016, Newcastle Think Tank? 17, Glasgow Cathouse 18, Leeds Key Club 20, Birmingham Rainbow 21, Sheffield Corporation 23, Bristol Tunnels 24, Plymouth Hub 25, Southampton Joiners 27, London Camden Underworld 29. Support: Ashestoangels, Never Found.

ALICE COOPER
Stone Free Festival @ London O2 Arena June 18 19, 2016.

ALIEN ANT FARM
Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms January 5, 2016, Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse 6, Glasgow Garage 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, Liverpool Arts Club 9, Newcastle Riverside 10, York Duchess 12, Norwich Waterfront 13, London Camden KOKO 14, Manchester Club Academy 15, Sheffield Corporation 16, Cambridge Junction 17, Exeter Lemon Grove 19, Bournemouth Old Firestation 20, Brighton Concorde II 21. Support: InMe, The Dirty Youth.

ALL TIME LOW
Cardiff Arena February 10, 2016, London O2 Arena 11, Manchester Arena 12, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 15, Dublin 3Arena 16. Support: Good Charlotte.

AMERICAN IDIOT: THE MUSICAL
Leicester Curve Theatre March 19 – 26, 2016, Bromley Churchill Theatre March 30 – April 2, Manchester Palace Theatre 4 – 9, Cardiff New Theatre April 19 – 23, Portsmouth Kings Theatre April 26 30, Oxford New Theatre May 3 – 7, Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre May 10 – 14, Sunderland Empire May 24 – 28, Glasgow King's Theatre May 31 – June 4.

BABYMETAL
London SSE Arena Wembley April 2, 2016.

BASEMENT
Bristol Marble Factory February 7, 2016, Glasgow King Tut's 8, Leeds Stylus 9, Manchester Academy II 10, Norwich Waterfront 11, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 12. Support: Tigers Jaw.

BIFFY CLYRO
Hogmany @ Edinburgh West Princes Street Gardens December 31.

BLACK STONE CHERRY
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 28, 2016, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 29, Liverpool Echo Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro February 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 2, London SSE Arena Wembley 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 5, Manchester Arena 6. Support: Shinedown, Halestorm, Highly Suspect.

BLOODSTOCK
Mastodon, Twisted Sister, Venom, Behemoth, DragonForce, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ, Anthrax, Gojira, Satyricon. Derbyshire Catton Park August 11 – 14, 2016.

BRIAN FALLON & THE CROWES
O2 Ritz Manchester April 5, 2016, O2 ABC Glasgow 6, O2 Institute Birmingham 7, London Camden KOKO 8 , Nottingham Rock City 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10.

BRING ME THE HORIZON
London Royal Albert Hall April 22, 2016.

THE BRONX
Manchester Ruby Lounge December 11, London Brooklyn Bowl 13. Support: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Pounded By The Surf.

CANCER BATS
Southend Chinnery's January 11, 2016, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 12, Brighton Concorde II 13, Norwich Waterfront 14, Exeter Phoenix 15, Plymouth Hub 16, Bristol Marble Factory 17, Bridgend Hobos 18, Reading Sub89 19, Stoke Sugarmill 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 22, Manchester Academy III 23, Leeds Key Club 24, Glasgow Garage 25, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 26, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 27, London Tufnell Park Dome 28.

CHRIS CORNELL
Belfast Ulster Hall April 24, 2016, Dublin Olympia Theatre 25, Manchester Bridgewater 27, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall 29, Bristol Colston Hall 30, Birmingham Symphony Hall May 2, London Royal Albert Hall 3.

CITY AND COLOUR
Brighton Dome February 18, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 19, Manchester Albert Hall 20, Dublin The Helix 22, Belfast Mandela Hall 23, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, London Troxy 26 – 27.

COHEED AND CAMBRIA
Cardiff Uni Great Hall January 31, 2016, Manchester O2 Ritz February 1, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Glassjaw, Crooks.

CRADLE OF FILTH
Chester Live Rooms March 12, 2016, Dublin Academy 13, Belfast Limelight 14.

CROSSFAITH
Southend Chinnery's March 16, 2016, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 17, Brighton Haunt 18, Cardiff Y Plas 19, Plymouth Hub 20, Leeds Key Club 22, Reading Sub 89 23, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 24, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 25, Manchester Academy II 26, Glasgow King Tut's 28, Sheffield Corporation 29, Norwich Waterfront 30, London Brixton Electric 31.

THE DARKNESS
O2 Academy Leeds December 9, Manchester Academy 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 11, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Guildhall Southampton 14, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 15, O2 Academy Bournemouth 17, O2 Academy Oxford 19, London Camden Roundhouse 20.

DEAFHEAVEN
Bristol Fleece March 13, 2016, London Heaven 14.

THE DEFILED
Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms January 26, 2016, Oxford Bullingdon 27, Norwich Waterfront Studio 28, York Duchess 29, Sheffield Corporation 30, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 31, Newcastle Think Tank? February 2, Chester Live Rooms 3, Swansea The Scene 4. Support: Forever Never, Vampires Everywhere.

DEF LEPPARD / WHITESNAKE
Newcastle Metro Radio Arena December 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 13, Manchester Arena 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London SSE Arena Wembley 18, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 19. Support: Black Star Riders.

DEFTONES
London SSE Arena Wembley June 3, 2016.

DESERTFEST
Line-up: Electric Wizard, Elder, Godflesh, Crowbar, Conan, Raging Speedhorn, Witchsorrow. London various venues April 29 – May 1, 2016.

DON BROCO
Nottingham Rock City December 9, Manchester Ritz 11, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 12, London O2 Academy Brixton 13. Support: Arcane Roots, Symmetry.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: Rammstein, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Korn, Megadeth, Disturbed, Motörhead, Nightwish, Deftones. Donington Park June 10 – 12, 2016.

DREAM THEATER
London Palladium February 18, 2016.

ENTER SHIKARI
Belfast Limelight December 17, Dublin Academy 18 (support: Fearless Vampire Killers). O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, 2016, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27. Support: The Wonder Years.

ESCAPE THE FATE
Manchester Club Academy January 28, 2016, Glasgow Cathouse 29, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 30, London Camden Electric Ballroom February 16. Support: Fearless Vampire Killers, New Years Day, Like A Storm.

EVERY TIME I DIE
London Borderline May 31, 2016, London Camden Underworld June 1, London Tufnell Park Dome 2, London Old Blue Last 3.

PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL

Latest additions: The Amity Affliction, Counting Days, Gutterdämmerung, Havok, Killswitch Engage, Skillet, Twin Atlantic, Fort Hope, Architects, Atreyu, Beartooth, Black Foxxes, DEAD!, Down, Milk Teeth, Neck Deep, Rival Sons, Skindred, TesseracT, Lawnmower Deth, Attila, Billy Talent, Breaking Benjamin, Delain, Don Broco, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Ghost, Gojira, Halestorm, Ho99o9, Saxon, Shinedown, Tremonti.

JUST ANNOUNCED

AIDEN
Dates added: Swansea Scene January 26, 2016, London Highbury Garage (acoustic) 30, London Camden Underworld 31.

BLACK PEAKS
Manchester Deaf Institute February 9, 2016, Newcastle Northumbria Uni 10, Glasgow King Tut's 11, Gloucester Guildhall 12, Southampton Talking Heads 13, Colchester Arts Centre 14, Norwich Arts Centre 15, Bristol Exchange 17, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 18, Liverpool Arts Club 19, Birmingham Asylum 20, London Dingwalls 22, Nottingham Rock City Basement 24, Tunbridge Wells Forum 25, Brighton Haunt 26.

THE BLACK QUEEN
London Oslo February 5, 2016.

BLOODSTOCK
Latest addition: Slayer.

KING DIAMOND
London O2 Forum Kentish Town June 21, 2016.

MALLORY KNOX
Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms January 30, 2016.

THE MENZINGERS' GREG BARNETT / CAPTAIN, WE'RE SINKING'S BOBBY BARNETT
Norwich Owl Sanctuary January 14, 2016, Leeds Brudenell 15, Glasgow 13th Note 16, Manchester Star & Garter 17, Newport Le Pub 19, Southampton Joiners 20, Brighton Green Door Store 21, Kingston Cricketers 22, London Lexington 23.

PVRIS
Support added: K.Flay, Bones and Alvarez Kings (select dates).

READING & LEEDS
Line-up: Red Hot Chili Peppers, twenty one pilots, Slaves, Crossfaith and more! Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 26 – 28, 2016.

SIMPLE PLAN
O2 Academy Bristol March 20, 2016, Nottingham Rock City 22, Manchester Ritz 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24. Support: Ghost Town.

WILSON
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms February 23, 2016, Liverpool Arts Club 24, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 25, Glasgow Broadcast 26, Leeds Key Club 27, Manchester Sound Control 29, Cambridge Portland Arms March 1, London Camden Barfly 2, Southampton Joiners 3.

YOU ME AT SIX
The Ghost Inside Benefit show – Support: Deaf Havana, Your Demise. London Camden Underworld December 11.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
CardiffY Plas April 5 6, 2016, Manchester Ritz 8 9, Glasgow O2 ABC 10 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 13 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15 16. Support: Shai Hulud, ZOAX.

GHOST
Leeds Beckett University December 12, Nottingham Rock City 14, Birmingham O2 Institute 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 18, Manchester Ritz 19, O2 Academy Bristol 20, London Camden KOKO 21. Support: Dead Soul. London Palladium March 2, 2016.

HEY! HELLO!
York Fibbers December 10, Stockton Georgian Theatre 11, Sheffield Corporation 12, Edinburgh Electric Circus 13, Stoke Sugarmill 14, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 17.

HIM
Nottingham Rock City December 27.

HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
O2 Academy Bristol April 18, 2016, London O2 Academy Brixton 20, O2 Academy Birmingham 21, Manchester Academy 22, O2 Academy Glasgow 23. Support: Attila.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line up: Hatebreed, Northlane, Emmure, blessthe fall, Chelsea Grin, Hundreth. Manchester Academy May 2, 2016, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 3.

IN THIS MOMENT
London O2 Forum Kentish Town January 21, 2016, Birmingham O2 Institute 22, Glasgow Barrowland 23, Manchester Ritz 24. Support: The Defiled.

ISSUES
CardiffY Plas May 24, 2016, London Camden KOKO 25, O2 Manchester Ritz 26, Glasgow Garage 27, Southampton Engine Rooms 31.

KERRANG! TOUR 2016
Line up: Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters. Dublin Academy February 10, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 12, Glasgow O2 ABC 13, Newcastle University 15, Norwich UEA 16, Manchester Albert Hall 18, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 19.

LIFE OF AGONY
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 17, 2016, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 18, Manchester Club Academy 19.

MACHINE HEAD
Norwich Open March 2, 2016, Nottingham Rock City 3, Belfast Limelight 5, Dublin Olympia 6, Manchester Academy 8, Cardiff Great Hall 10, London Eventim Apollo 11, O2 Academy Glasgow 12.

MANIC STREET PREACHERS
Swansea Liberty Stadium May 28, 2016.

MARIACHI EL BRONX
Manchester Ruby Lounge December 10, London Brooklyn Bowl 12.

MAYBESHEWILL
London Camden KOKO April 15, 2016.

MAYDAY PARADE
Exeter Lemon Grove January 26, 2016, O2 Academy Bristol 27, Norwich UEA 28, Birmingham O2 Institute 29, Manchester Ritz 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Dublin Academy February 2, O2 ABC Glasgow, 3, Nottingham Rock City 4, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 5, Leeds University 6, Portsmouth Pyramids 7. Support: The Maine, Have Mercy, Beautiful Bodies.

MEMPHIS MAY FIRE
London Camden Electric Ballroom May 31, 2016.

MONSTER MAGNET
London O2 Forum Kentish Town March 19, 2016.

MOTÖRHEAD
Newcastle City Hall January 23, 2016, Glasgow Clyde Auditorium 24, O2 Apollo Manchester 26, Swindon Oasis 27, London Eventim Apollo 29 – 30. Support: Saxon, Girlschool.

MUSE
Birmingham Barclaycard Arena April 2, 2016, London O2 Arena 3, Dublin 3Arena 5, Belfast SSE Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8 – 9, London O2 Arena 11 – 15, Glasgow SSE Hydro 17 – 18.

NECK DEEP
O2 Guildhall Southampton April 16, 2016, Newcastle University Student Union 18, Leeds Beckett University 19, O2 Academy Liverpool 20. Support: Creeper, WSTR.

NECK DEEP / STATE CHAMPS
Birmingham O2 Institute February 1, 2016, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, Manchester Academy 4, Cardiff Great Hall 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 6. Support: Creeper, Light Years.

THE ONE HUNDRED
London Camden Barfly December 17.

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
London O2 Academy Brixton January 12, 2016.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, 2016, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder.

PVRIS
Brighton Concorde April 1, 2016, Norwich UEA 2, Newcastle Riverside 3, Glasgow Garage 4, Manchester Academy 6, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 7, Cardiff Great Hall 8, O2 Institute Birmingham 9.

RECKLESS LOVE
Bristol Thekla March 4, 2016, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 5, Leeds Key Club 6, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 7, Glasgow Cathouse 9, Manchester Gorilla 10, Nottingham Rock City 12, London King's Cross Scala 31. Support: Santa Cruz.

SAOSIN
London O2 Academy Islington April 30, 2016.

SKUNK ANANSIE
Manchester Albert Hall February 4, 2016, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 5.

SLAVES
London O2 Academy Brixton December 17, Tunbridge Wells Assembly Rooms 18.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Line up: Panic! At The Disco, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, Four Year Strong, Every Time I Die, Issues, Memphis May Fire, Real Friends. Slam Dunk North – Leeds City Centre May 28, 2016, Slam Dunk Midlands – Birmingham NEC 29, Slam Dunk South – Hatfield University Of Hertfordshire 30.

SLEEP
London O2 Forum Kentish Town July 6, 2016.

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
O2 Academy Bristol February 29, 2016, Nottingham Rock City March 1, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, O2 Apollo Manchester 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6. Support: This Wild Life, Beach Weather.

SLIPKNOT
Cardiff Arena February 8, 2016, London Alexandra Palace 9 – 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Leeds First Direct Arena 13. Support: Suicidal Tendencies.

THE STORY SO FAR
Manchester Academy II December 9, Glasgow Garage 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Leeds Stylus 12.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Newcastle University February 27, 2016, O2 ABC Glasgow 28, Leeds Beckett SU 29, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire March 2, CardiffY Plas Students Union 3, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 4, Manchester Ritz 5, Norwich Waterfront 6.

THERAPY?
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 19. Support: Black Spiders.

TONIGHT ALIVE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town February 18, 2016, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, Newcastle University 20, O2 ABC Glasgow 21, Portsmouth Pyramids Centre 23, O2 Academy Bristol 24, O2 Institute Birmingham 26. Support: Our Last Night, Milk Teeth.

TREMONTI
Birmingham O2 Institute December 11, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 12, Manchester Ritz 13, O2 Academy Bristol 15, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 16.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
O2 Academy Leeds February 18, 2016, O2 Academy Newcastle 19, Glasgow Barrowland 20, Manchester Academy 21, O2 Academy Birmingham 23, London O2 Academy Brixton 24 – 25, Nottingham Rock City 27, O2 Academy Bristol 28, Portsmouth Guildhall 29.

THE USED
O2 Academy Leeds February 20, 2016 (performing their self-titled album), O2 Academy Leeds 21 (performing In Love & Death), London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22 (performing their self-titled album), London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24 (performing In Love & Death).

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
Mansfield Intake March 16, 2016, Hull Adelphi 17, Huddersfield Parish 18, Bolton Alma 19, Corby Zombie Hut 20, Gravesend Red Lion 22, Brighton Haunt 23, Plymouth Junction 24, Oxford Bullingdon 25, Doncaster Vintage 26.

WOLF ALICE
Belfast Mandela Hall March 4, 2016, Dublin Olympia 5, Stoke-On-Trent Keele Uni Students Union 7, Manchester Academy 10, Norwich UEA 11, O2 Academy Oxford 13, Portsmouth Pyramids 14, Glasgow Barrowland 16, York Barbican 17, O2 Academy Leeds 19, Folkestone Cliff Halls 21, Brighton Dome 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, Cardiff Great Hall 24, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 26 27.

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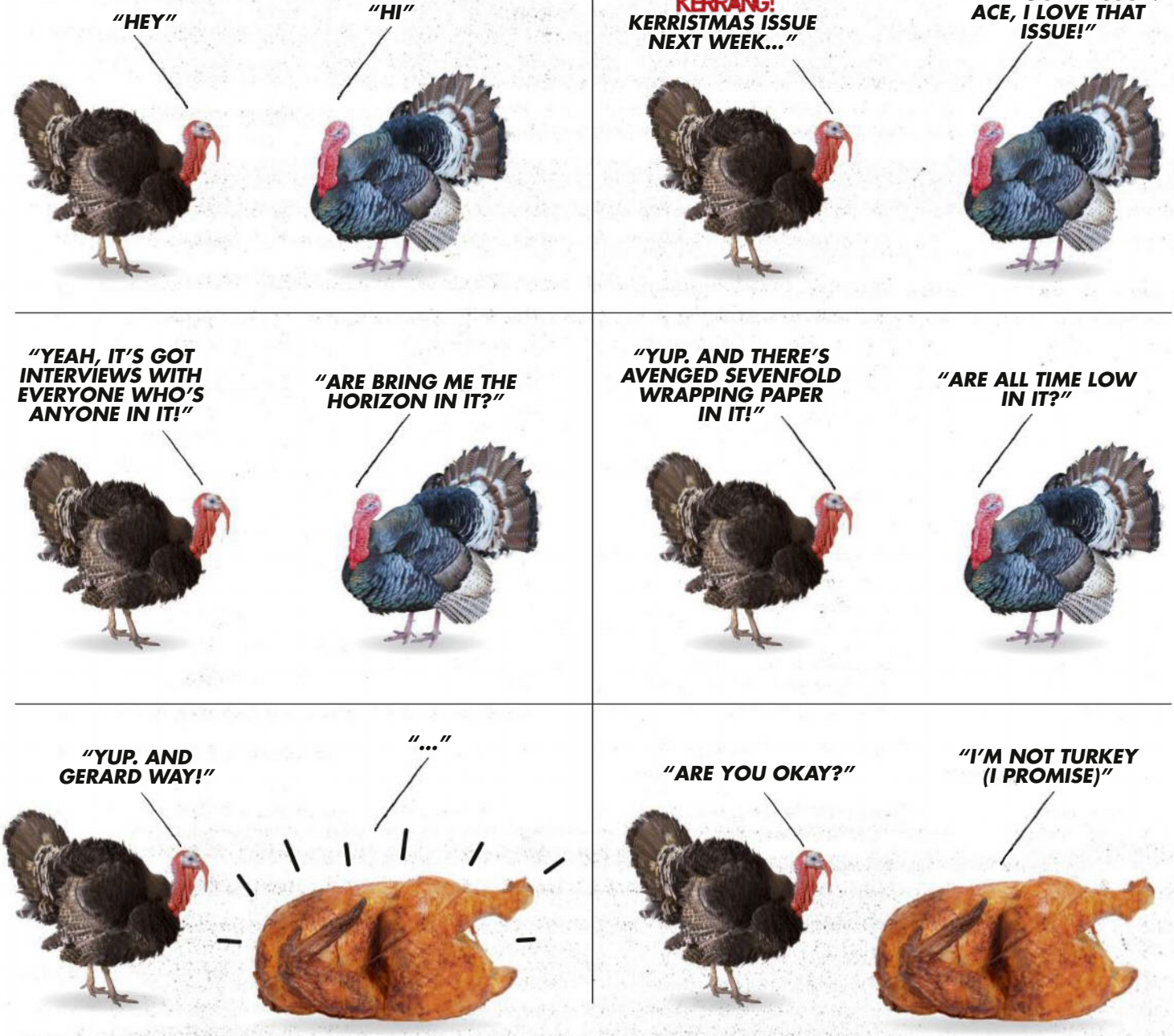
ON SALE DECEMBER 16



EDITORIAL

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHT OF 2015?

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DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(Meeting Ice-motherfucking-T at Download)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Madonna stacking it)*
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper *(Meeting Marilyn Manson / Converting Debbie into a Mötley Crüe megafan at their farewell shows)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare *(Moving in with Livy [HI LIVY!])*
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg *(The return of Faith No More)*
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DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Pig-gate)*
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BAUER

recycle

THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

WINSTON McCALL
PARKWAY DRIVE

RUNNING FROM POLICE AND JUMPING OUT OF PLANES, IT'S EXHAUSTING BEING A ROCKSTAR…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO RUN FROM THE POLICE?

"Yeah, because I wasn't wearing any clothes while running down the main street of my town! Why was I doing it? Um, probably because it seemed like a good idea at the time? And they certainly weren't very happy about that! They didn't catch me, either, and I'm not entirely sure if that's because they didn't actually want to touch this strange, naked man…"

HAVE YOU EVER RISKED YOUR LIFE IN THE NAME OF ROCK?

"I jumped out of a plane for the Vice Grip video. I learned to parachute just for that video, and it was a total trouser-browner. I'm terrified of heights, so it was a full-on 'man the fuck up' scenario and, trust me, I screamed every single time that parachute opened!"

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST GIFT A FAN HAS GIVEN YOU?

"I'm not sure if it really counts, but someone threw a pair of men's underwear onstage while we were playing Download, which was 'special'. Thing is, I didn't actually see anyone get naked in the crowd, so I'm wondering whether he brought them especially for me and had them in his pocket until then. I kicked them back into the crowd – or tried to – they landed on a security bloke, and he wasn't very happy about that."

All sounds a bit pants if you ask us…

ON YOUR MUSIC...

IN THE SLEEPWALKER VIDEO, WHAT WORD GETS SPRAY PAINTED IN BIG RED LETTERS ON THE WALL?

"Oh fuck! I don't even know! And what makes it worse is that I'm the one who digitally drew that on the computer, so if anyone *should* know, it's me. Wow, what a total fail!"

It was 'trapped'. Fail with a capital F, underlined, spray-painted on your house

YOU PROVIDED GUEST VOCALS ON YOU ME AT SIX'S TIME IS MONEY – WHAT YEAR WAS THAT RELEASED?

"What year is it now? 2015? So… 2012? It's 2011? Ah, I was so close! It was a ripper to do that; we were on tour and I got to go down to the studio they were recording at, and I think I woke them up at 5am yelling, 'I'm here, let's get going!'"

Move over, Casio, there's a new alarm clock on the night stand

COMPLETE THIS LYRIC: 'MY WILL IS BROKEN, SINKING, ALWAYS SINKING…'

"Fucking hell, I sing Deliver Me every bloody night, I should know this… Oh! '*The sands of time forever slipping!*' Check that out, I know my own words! Sometimes I'll have a complete mind blank onstage and have to bellow noises instead of words…"

Yes, Winston, well done on getting the lyrics of the song you sing every night right

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

YOU'RE OUT SURFING AND ENCOUNTER A MASSIVE SHARK – DO YOU WRESTLE IT OR SWIM LIKE HELL?

"That's happened several times, and trust me, you *never* wrestle it *or* swim like hell. You move *very* slowly and hope the fucker doesn't start thinking of you as lunch! It's the *worst* feeling in your entire life! It's like seeing a man-eating *car* driving along underwater – they're that big – and you think, 'Shit, I am *nothing* compared to that thing!'"

YOU CAN ONLY SCREAM WHEN STANDING ON ONE LEG – COULD YOU HANDLE HOPPING FOR A WHOLE SET?

"I pretty much do that anyway with the amount of time I have one foot up on the monitor! In fact, my left leg is *way* stronger than my right, I'm surprised I don't run really weirdly, and, in all seriousness, I actually have to go get some chiropractic work done *because* I stand on that one leg so much!"

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF BYRON BAY COUNCIL RENAMED THE STREET YOU LIVE ON WINSTON WAY IN YOUR HONOUR?

"It'd be good, but I think it would lead me to wanting to petition we change our band name to that and they'd call me an arsehole. Most people in our town are fairly oblivious to who we are anyway, which is pretty funny. It's a hippy-slash-yuppie town, and our music doesn't really translate to either demographic. It's nice to live under the radar."

Translation: my neighbours don't like us

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

ARE WE BEING WATCHED BY ALIENS?

"If we are, they're *very* bored. *I* wouldn't watch this show! I think there probably are aliens out there, whether or not they're zipping around in flying saucers I don't know, and I'm not watching for them!"

Let's hope for the aliens' sake they've not lost their remote down the back of the sofa

"JUMPING OUT OF A PLANE WAS A TOTAL TROUSER-BROWNER"

WINSTON McCALL

THE VERDICT

WRESTLE A SHARK AND WE'LL PUT YOU AT NUMBER ONE NEXT TIME, WINST…

SCORE 89%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	LEMMY MOTÖRHEAD	99%
1	OZZY OSBOURNE BLACK SABBATH	99%
1	ROB HALFORD JUDAS PRIEST	99%
4	ICE-T BODY COUNT	97%
5	MATT SORUM	97%
6	GENE SIMMONS KISS	96%
7	ALICE COOPER	95%
8	FRANK CARTER	94%
9	ASH COSTELLO NEW YEARS DAY	93%
10	WINSTON McCALL PARKWAY DRIVE	89%
71	BOB MOULD HÜSKER DÜ/SUGAR	64%
72	AUSTIN CARLILE OF MICE & MEN	61%
73	ALEX GASKARTH ALL TIME LOW	55%

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

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